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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Urges UN To Protect Palestinians *[MENA]* 1
Iraqi-Syrian Alliance Against Turkey Sought *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 29 Nov]* 1
'Arab Dialogue' Urges Normalization With Libya *[AL-SHA'B 23 Nov]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Date Set for Israeli Withdrawal 'Sacred' *[Baghdad VOP]* 2
PNC's Subayh Reaffirms Deadline *[London AL-HAYAH 28 Nov]* 2
PLO Said To Insist on Pullout *[AFP]* 3
Negotiator on Delaying Deadline *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
PLO Urges Implementation of Accord With Israel *[MENA]* 4
'Arafat Briefs Leadership on European Tour *[Baghdad VOP]* 4
Paper: 'Arafat Ties With Jordan Near 'Collapse' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 29 Nov]* 4
Houses To Be Built for PLO Leaders in Jericho *[AFP]* 5
PFLP-GC's Jibril on Opposition to PLO Deal *[London AL-HAYAH 1 Dec]* 5
PFLP's Habash on Confronting Peace Accord *[AL-ASWAQ 2 Dec]* 8
Fatah's al-Hasan: No Decision on Heading Team *[London AL-HAYAH 29 Nov]* 9
Al-Hasan on Accord, Opposition *[AL-DUSTUR 2 Dec]* 10
Fatah Militants Call for Surge in Intifadah *[AFP]* 12
DFLP Claims Responsibility for Terror Attack *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 12
Police Official on Deployment in Territories *[AFP]* 12
Official Denies Police Assembling in Jordan *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 28 Nov]* 13

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Dialogue Commission Spokesman Assesses Developments *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Workers Party Urges Lifting of State of Emergency *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Interior Minister Notes Domestic 'Crisis,' Security *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Judge Assassinated in Blida *[Paris Radio]* 15
Defense Minister Meets With French Envoy *[Algiers Radio]* 15

Egypt

U.S. Defense Official, Delegation Arrive in Cairo *[MENA]* 15
Meets Defense Minister *[Cairo Radio]* 15
U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Arrives in Cairo *[MENA]* 15
Musa Comments on CSCE Meeting, Peace Process *[Cairo Radio]* 15
Interior Minister Comments on Terrorism *[Cairo TV]* 16
Two Undercover Policemen Killed in Dayrut *[MENA]* 16
Editorial Denounces Attack on Sidqi, 'Terrorism' *[AL-WAFD 26 Nov]* 16
Labor Party Official Discusses Islamist Aims *[AL-SHIRA' 29 Nov]* 17
Security Accord With Afghanistan Viewed *[AL-WAFD 23 Nov]* 17

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Defense Minister Says Russia Visit 'Successful' *[KUNA]* 18
Physical Training Chief Conveys Iranian Invitation *[Tehran TV]* 18

Saudi Arabia

Prince 'Abdallah Receives Somali Prime Minister *[Riyadh Radio]* 18

United Arab Emirates

'Olive Branch' Extended to Iran on Islands *[AFP]* 18

Yemen

Interior Ministry Source Confirms Mahoney Release 19
U.S. Expresses 'Appreciation' *[Sanaa Radio]* 19
Minister Pledges Legal Action *[MENA]* 20
Salih Regrets 'Deplorable Incident' *[Sanaa Radio]* 20
House Committee Meets, Discusses 'Political Crisis' *[Sanaa Radio]* 20

IRAQ

Iraq, UN Sign 'Joint Report' on Holding Talks *[INA]* 21
Daily Criticizes Ekeus, U.S., UK Over Sanctions *[INA]* 21
Baghdad 'Not Interested' in Confrontations With UN *[AL-THAWRAH 28 Nov]* 22
Cypriot Ship Delivers Cargo at al-Basrah *[INA]* 22
Kurdish Leaders Pay Brief Visit to Turkey *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 23
Saddam Sends Cable Thanking Jordan's King Husayn *[INA]* 23

ISRAEL

Rabin Addresses European Parliament *[Ecully TV]* 24
U.S. Defense Under Secretary on NPT, Iran *[Jerusalem TV]* 25
Official Sees Syria as 2d Stage in Peace Process *[AFP]* 25
Ambassador Addresses UN Debate on Middle East *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Fatah Hawks Detainee Released by Army *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Soldier Shoots 2 Arabs in Jabalyah *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Darawshah on Situation in Territories, Prisoners *[Cairo International]* 27
Attorney General: Settlers Organization 'Illegal' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Police Chief: Legality Not Determined *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 27
Settlers Demonstrate Over Killing in 20 Locations *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 28
'Hundreds' Block Roads *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Settlers To Set Up Settlement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Minister on Expanding Exports, Regional Setup *[DAVAR 1 Dec]* 28

JORDAN

Royal Decree Accepts Ministers' Resignations *[Amman Radio]* 30
Cabinet Reshuffled 1 Dec *[Amman TV]* 30
Editorial on 'Awesome' Tasks *[JORDAN TIMES 2-3 Dec]* 30
King Husayn Addresses Armed Forces Graduates *[Amman Radio]* 31
Dudin Discusses Compensation for Refugee Burden *[JORDAN TIMES]* 32
Banking, Trade Issues Discussed With Israelis *[JORDAN TIMES 2-3 Dec]* 34

LEBANON

Israeli Pilot Reportedly Held by Syria or Iran *[AFP]* 35
Resistance Fighters Attack Israeli Position *[Beirut Radio]* 35

Israeli Shelling Reported *[VOL]* 35
Hizballah Clerics Receive No Pay From Iran for 5 Months *[AL-SHIRA' 29 Nov]* 35

SYRIA

Papers View Christopher Visit, Golan Withdrawal 36
Editorial Notes Christopher's 'New Ideas' *[AL-BA'TH 28 Nov]* 36
Progress in Talks Expected *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 29 Nov]* 36
Papers Stress Need For Withdrawal *[Damascus Radio]* 37
Syria Ready To Bolster Iraqi Opposition's Unity *[London AL-HAYAH 28 Nov]* 38

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

'Tension' Among Hekmatyar's 'Ringleaders' Noted *[Kabul Radio]* 39
Hekmatyar's View of Country's Future Decried *[Kabul Radio]* 39
Two Killed in Shelling in Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 39
Report on Clashes in Kabul Refuted *[Kabul Radio]* 39
• Mas'ud-Dostam Disagreement on 'Afghan Arabs' Detailed
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 23 Nov] 40
Gaylani Meets Islamic Movement Chiefs, Baghlan Governor *[Kabul Radio]* 40
Structure, Activity of Egyptian Islamist Groups Described *[AL-SAFIR 27 Nov]* 40
Rabbani Meets Italian Foreign Ministry Official *[Kabul Radio]* 42
Presidency Council Discusses National Issues *[Kabul Radio]* 42

India

Rao Not To Be Queried on Payoff Allegations *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Congress-I Gains Absolute Majority in Madhya *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Congress-I: State Elections Outcome 'Historic' *[Delhi Radio]* 43
6 More Srinagar Shrine 'Militants' Released *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Official Spokesman on Chinese Official's Visit *[ISI]* 43
ULFA 'Militants' Backed by Pakistan, Bangladesh *[Delhi Radio]* 44
EC Using India as 'Convenient Pawn' in GATT *[INDIAN EXPRESS 24 Nov]* 44

Iran

Lebanon's Junblatt Denounces PLO-Israeli Deal *[IRNA]* 45
Meets Majles Speaker *[IRNA]* 45
Confers With Interior Minister *[IRNA]* 45
Hamas Leader Abu-Marzuq Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Tehran TV]* 46
Says Gaza-Jericho Accord 'Doomed To Fail' *[IRNA]* 46
Passengers, Crew of Hijacked Plane Return *[IRNA]* 46
MKO Activities Detailed *[IRNA]* 46
Daily Calls Clinton-Rushdie Meeting 'Seditious Act' *[IRNA]* 47
Tehran Reports U.S. Efforts To 'Isolate' Iran *[Tehran Radio]* 47
• Deputies Discuss Relations With U.S. *[RESALAT 3 Nov]* 47
Commentary Criticizes Sanctions Against Libya *[Tehran Radio]* 50
Relations With Sudanese Fundamentalists 'Deteriorating'
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 27 Nov] 51
Danish Minister Meets Velayati, Finance Minister *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Japanese Envoy Discusses Railway Cooperation *[IRNA]* 52
Senior Banking Officials Accused of Fraud *[AFP]* 52
President's Economic Dispute With Khamene'i Noted
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 27 Nov] 52
Official on Regulations for Free Trade Zones *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Deputy Energy Minister Explains New Electricity Charges *[Tehran Radio]* 53
Commando Training Exercises Begins *[Tehran Radio]* 53

Pakistan

U.S., Bhutto Stances on Pressler Viewed *[THE NATION 1 Dec]* 53
General Beg Comments on Nuclear Policy *[THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER 2 Dec]* 54
Editorial: U.S. 'Groping' on Nuclear Policy *[THE MUSLIM 28 Nov]* 55
Clinton Meeting With Rushdie Assailed *[THE MUSLIM 1 Dec]* 55
China To Assist in Building Power Plants *[Islamabad TV]* 57
Chinese Army General Staff Chief Begins Visit *[Islamabad Radio]* 57

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Urges UN To Protect Palestinians

NC0112152593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—The Arab League expressed deep concern over the intensification of the repressive practices of the Israeli occupation authorities and the Jewish settlers' groups against the Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories.

In a statement issued today, the Arab League appealed to the international community, the United Nations, and various UN organizations, particularly the Human Rights Committee, to intervene quickly to put an end to the violation of the Palestinians' rights and freedoms in the Palestinian territories and to protect their right to self-determination over all their national soil in accordance with the international legitimacy's resolutions.

The Arab League's statement drew the world's attention to the gravity of the deteriorating conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories and their negative effects on the overall peace process in the region. It stressed that these practices expose Israel's real intention, which is to impede the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and render it void of any substance, using the deteriorating security situation as an excuse.

The statement noted that this grave escalation comes at a time when the world is expecting Israel to employ confidence-building measures and to calm the situation to lay the groundwork for the transition to the Palestinian self-government authority's assuming its legitimate responsibilities and for the Israeli forces' withdrawal according to the Declaration of Principles.

Iraqi-Syrian Alliance Against Turkey Sought

PM3011160093 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 29 Nov 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Pan-Arab Mediation Efforts Being Made To Reconcile Iraq and Syria in Bid To Confront Turkey"]

[Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—Pan-Arab figures are currently making mediation efforts to bring Syrian and Iraqi views closer in a bid to confront Turkey and its attempts to control the sources of the Tigris and Euphrates waters, and also to confront the U.S. plan in the region.

Diplomatic sources have told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that the mediation idea emerged three weeks ago when a delegation from the Pan-Arab Conference General Secretariat headed by Dr. Khayr-al-Din Hasib met with Syrian Deputy Prime Minister [as published] 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. The delegation raised the idea of forming an Iraqi-Syrian-Iranian alliance against the United States. It encountered a Syrian hint of approval and of putting the blame on Iraq, which has taken no steps in this connection.

AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned that Dr. Mas'ud al-Shabi, former member of the pan-Arab leadership and member of the Pan-Arab Conference General Secretariat, has gone to Iraq to raise the matter with officials in Baghdad in order to learn their view.

As is well known, Syria has begun to make moves with regard to Iraq and to try to unite Iraqi opposition circles on the basis of a pan-Arab rule that rejects Iraq's partition and safeguards its territorial integrity.

Iraqi opposition sources in London have said that Syrian officials have met with Iraqi opposition figures over the past two weeks, expressing discontent at the Unified Iraqi [National] Congress and some Kurdish factions supporting Turkey and working to separate Kurdistan from Iraq. As is well known, Turkey recently accused Syria of supporting the extremist Kurdish Workers' Party, which has over recent days intensified its operations against Ankara. The party's leader, Abdallah Ocalan, held a news conference in Lebanon's al-Biqa', which is controlled by Syrian forces—an indication that he has resumed his activities after his bases in Lebanon were closed following a Syrian-Turkish agreement 18 months ago.

'Arab Dialogue' Urges Normalization With Libya

NC0212112193 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Nov 93 pp 1, 9

[Text] In the largest Arab intellectual and political gathering this month, the sixteenth round of the Democratic Revolutionary Arab Dialogue convened in Libya. It asked the Arab regimes to immediately lift the siege imposed on the Libyan people and end their commitment to the Security Council resolutions because the accusations leveled at Libya are not serious. The meeting also demanded that this should go along with the zeal these regimes have shown regarding keeping the Arab boycott on Israel.

The gathering was attended by a delegation from the Labor Party headed by Ibrahim Shukri. The delegation also included Khalid Muhyi-al-Din from the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, as well as Mahmud Amin-al-'Alim, 'Abd-al-'Azim Mughrabi, and Sami Sharaf; Sayyid Sha'ban and 'Abdallah Imam from the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party; and Ahmad 'Ubayd from the Arab Lawyers' Union. Participants from Lebanon included Dr. Karim Muruwwah, Khalil al-Khalil, Dr. Muhyi-al-Din Subhi, Lieutenant General Dr. Yasin Suwayd, and George Hawi. Participants from Palestine included 'Abd-al-Qadir Hasan from the Islamic Jihad movement, Dr. Muhammad Siyam from Hamas, and leading figures from Fatah-The Intifadah movement such as 'Ayid Magharibah, Naji 'Allush, and Musa al-Hawamidah. Delegations from Morocco, Sudan, the Libyan Jamahiriyah, Yemen, Bahrain, and Syria participated in the meeting.

The meeting issued a concluding statement which contained the following:

At a time when the international community, through many of its humanitarian and political organizations and institutes, has moved to demand lifting the repressive siege imposed on the Libyan people in accordance with Resolution 748; at a time when the Libyan Jamahiriyah responded to the call of the international community to cooperate in revealing the truth regarding the Lockerbie incident in which two of its citizens are accused of having been involved—in fact it has done much more by proposing many initiatives to resolve the crisis through dialogue and peaceful means away from the carrot and stick policy; at this time in particular, the U.S.-led global imperialism along with its allies in Europe, in particular Britain and France, insists on defying the international community and Arab and international public opinion, which has expressed its solidarity and support for the Jamahiriyah, by continuing its aggressive course against the people of the Jamahiriyah. It also resorted to putting pressure on the Security Council to issue a new resolution that tightens and steps up the sanctions imposed on Libya since April 1992.

The statement also said: While the Democratic Revolutionary Arab Dialogue reaffirms its support for and solidarity with the people and leadership of the Jamahiriyah in confronting the U.S., British, and French belligerence, it also condemns this new escalation of sanctions that the imperial circles in the Security Council have imposed to serve their objectives and aggressive politics against the innocent and peaceable nations and peoples. The Democratic Revolutionary Arab Dialogue declares the following: First, it calls on all Arab regimes to strongly support the Jamahiriyah and end their adherence to the Security Council's unjust resolution. It should also remove the siege imposed on our Arab people in the Jamahiriyah. Second, the meeting calls on all vital forces in the Arab nation with their various political and intellectual trends to show more support and backing for the people of the Jamahiriyah. Third, it calls on the cultural and popular organizations and unions to implement the decisions of their various central bodies which were made to support the Jamahiriyah. Fourth, it calls on the regional organizations, such as the OAU, the Islamic Conference Organization, the Nonaligned Movement, and the rest of the humanitarian organizations to shoulder their responsibilities in confronting the double-standard strategy U.S. imperialism is practicing.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Date Set for Israeli Withdrawal 'Sacred'

JN0112194493 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] holds Israel, the United States, and Russia responsible for any possible halt to the implementation of Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles.

In statements to reporters before departing Denmark, brother President Abu-'Ammar said that 13 December, the date set for the beginning of the Israeli troops withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, is a sacred date, and must be respected.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar added: In accordance with the declaration of principles, we demand that its articles be accurately and honestly observed and that it be completely implemented on the ground. He warned that Israel's failure to abide by the agreement will seriously harm the agreement.

PNC's Subayh Reaffirms Deadline

PM0112124293 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Nov 93 p 5

[Muhammad 'Allam report: "Subayh Tells AL-HAYAH: Israel Must Withdraw Quickly and Peacefully"]

[Text] Cairo—Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council, has told AL-HAYAH that delaying implementing the Gaza-Jericho agreement on the specified date, that is 13 December, is out of the question, "because it is a contractual agreement between the two sides which must be respected. No party has the right to request postponement unilaterally." He pointed out that "the more we are late, the more peace is exposed to danger."

Subayh criticized Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for saying that the "date is not sacrosanct." He stressed that "the signing and the date are sacrosanct." He urged Israel to "quickly implement the agreement and not be sluggish" because "there are no justifications for this delay," and so that it can move out of Gaza and the West Bank peacefully. He warned that "every drop of Palestinian blood shed is dear to the Palestinian people in general and the Palestinian leadership in particular."

He sharply criticized the escalation of "Israeli practices in the occupied territories" because they "will adversely affect the implementation of the agreement." He said that these practices are "erroneous, conducted at the wrong time, and will have a negative impact on the Palestinian people."

He said that "Israel must withdraw quickly and take steps to build trust so that we can feel there is a real change." He stressed that "violence will generate violence."

Subayh denied the existence of Palestinian-Jordanian disagreements, accusing the Jordanian press "of exaggerating differences." He emphasized that "coordination between Jordan and the PLO exists and is permanent, and the PLO has not heard about these disagreements from Jordanian officials."

He added that contacts with Egypt and Jordan regarding the Palestinian forces' movement to Gaza and Jericho have resulted in coordination with regard to the entry to the Gaza Strip—via Rafah on the Egyptian border—of the forces present in Aden and Sanaa under the command of Ahmad

Mafraj, forces present in Egypt under the command of 'Abd-al-Wahid 'Abd-al-Hayy, forces present in Sudan under the command of Major General al-'Ajiz, and forces present in Libya under the command of Khalid Su[illegible]; and the entry into Jericho—via Jordanian territory—of the Badr forces, al-Qadisiyah forces, the 17 forces [as published], and the forces present in Jordan.

PLO Said To Insist on Pullout

NC0212140993 Paris AFP in English 1250 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Tunis, Dec 2 (AFP)—The PLO insisted Thursday that Israel start to pull out of Gaza and Jericho within the next two weeks as scheduled, urging Washington and Moscow to help implement Palestinian autonomy.

Israel was to blame for the "impasse which threatens the credibility" of the peace process, the PLO leadership charged in a statement issued after two days of talks chaired by Yasir 'Arafat at the organisation's headquarters in Tunis.

The PLO said the Israeli army's hunt for Palestinian militants had created an "extremely dangerous" situation in the occupied territories, while the Jewish state was "wasting time" in the autonomy negotiations.

Calling for the "rapid" intervention of the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process, the United States and Russia, the Palestine Organisation Liberation said the September 13 accord must be implemented "with precision."

It said the co-sponsors must help implement the accord, under which the Israeli army is to start pulling out on December 13, and provide "international protection" for the Palestinians of the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has reaffirmed his commitment to implementing the accord despite the violence in the territories, which has claimed three lives since Tuesday.

But out of security concerns holding up an agreement on the withdrawal from Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho, he also proposed a possible delay of one or two weeks in the start of the pull-out.

'Arafat has rejected any delay.

Negotiator on Delaying Deadline

JN0212134193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1050 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Telephone interview with lawyer Furayh Abu-Middayn, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in Tunis, by Rossette Hakim; carried within the "With the Midday Events" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Middayn] In fact three meetings were held yesterday and the day before yesterday, and all were planned to deal with the formation of the Palestinian authority during the next stage, and transferring powers to this authority. However, the events in the occupied territories overshadowed the consultations and talks to the point that most of the talks were centered on the situation in the occupied territories and the escalation there. The negotiations in Taba, al-'Arish, and Cairo were also assessed by the meetings. There was a feeling that the stalemate in the talks and the situation in the occupied territories will delay the formation of the national authority at present, because there are priorities. There should be solutions or written agreements, because the negotiations, scheduled to end on 13 December, cannot continue without a written agreement and a translation of the Oslo accord on the ground. All these points made it necessary to pause a little bit...

[Hakim, interrupting] Are we to understand from what you are saying that there is a possibility of delaying the date of the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho?

[Abu-Middayn] Certainly Israel is not ready for this. There is total readiness on the Palestinian side. There are 7,200 soldiers ready to enter Egypt, but they cannot be sent to Cairo, Sinai, or Rafah without a definite date for their entry to the Palestinian territories on the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

[Hakim] Mr. Furayh Abu-Middayn, there are some PLO leaders such as Mahmud 'Abbas, known as Abu-Mazin, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh who did not participate in the PLO-led consultations. Does this reflect disagreement on the decisionmaking process within the PLO leadership?

[Abu-Middayn] In fact the focus was on the leaders of the occupied territories. Nine leaders from the occupied territories were present. The objective was to let these leaders say their views frankly and directly to the Palestinian leadership. The absence of brothers 'Abd-Rabbuh and Abu-Mazin has not affected the presence of the Palestinians of the occupied territories in Tunis. Frankly, it is true there are differences in views, but this does not mean exploding the peace process. The brothers in the Palestinian People's Party have an opinion, and the brothers in FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Union] have an opinion. This is our nature...

[Hakim, interrupting] One final question, what do you expect during the next stage, during next week and the following week?

[Abu-Middayn] I expect the negotiations to be intensified next week because the credibility of the peace process has begun to shake among the Palestinians in particular. Therefore, the talks should be intensified and a clear and specific breakthrough should be reached before 13 December. The people here in Tunis and elsewhere have sold their cars and houses and they are ready. The Palestinian army here and everywhere else is ready to go. If we delayed the date without fixing a new one and without achieving results within a week or 10 days, there will be much doubt about the negotiating process as a whole. Therefore, there should be a courageous decision from the Israeli side concerning the

prisoners, crossings, and the extent of withdrawal. I hope this will be realized even if it needs a summit meeting between Rabin and 'Arafat next week.

[Hakim] Thank you lawyer Furayh Abu-Middayn, member of the Palestinian negotiating team.

PLO Urges Implementation of Accord With Israel

NC0212111293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Tunis, 2 Dec (MENA)—The PLO has affirmed its desire to implement, accurately and honestly, its Declaration of Principles with Israel including such dates and timetables as it contains. It called on the cosponsors of the peace process and the world community to intervene immediately to guarantee the implementation of the agreement and provide international protection for the Palestinian people so that the agreement may be implemented and safeguarded.

An official Palestinian source delivered a statement today about the Palestinian leadership's meetings yesterday and the day before [30 November and 1 December]. In this statement, the PLO condemned and denounced Israel's acts and policies, declaring that if these acts persist, continue to hinder progress in the negotiations, and disrupt the atmosphere necessary for such progress, then this will cast doubts over the Israeli Government's credibility and commitments.

'Arafat Briefs Leadership on European Tour

JN0112200593 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Under the chairmanship of leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the Palestinian leadership held meetings in the Tunisian capital at noon yesterday. The Palestine News Agency, WAFA, said that brother President Abu-'Ammar briefed the Palestinian leadership on the results of his north European tour, which took him to Norway, Finland, Sweden, and Denmark.

WAFA said that the Palestinian leadership reviewed the developments of the peace process and the current Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles. The leadership also discussed the formation of a national Palestinian authority, arrangements for the transfer of PLO institutions to Gaza and Jericho, and the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, where the Israeli occupation troops are escalating their criminal attacks on the sons of our Palestinian people.

Paper: 'Arafat Ties With Jordan Near 'Collapse'

PM0112153093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Nov 93 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Tension Between King Husayn and 'Arafat Intensifies"]

[Text] London—All the indications are that relations between Jordan and the PLO are at their coolest since the Middle East peace process began with the renowned Madrid conference. As 13 December, the date for Israeli withdrawal from Jericho and Gaza, draws nearer, some say these relations are now in a bottleneck and could reach the brink of collapse at any moment, particularly in view of the claim that 'Arafat is unhappy about the election of Tahir al-Masri as speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives.

Excluding occasional slips of the tongue by Jordanian and Palestinian officials, information available to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT indicates that the meeting the day before yesterday between Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, included some severe remonstrations regarding the attitude of the Palestinian leadership and its continuous attempts to impress upon the parties to the peace process that Jordan has no special role in the current settlement or the Palestinian issue.

It was previously indicated that Jordanian officials had heard that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat accused al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, his ambassador in Amman, of adopting a position closer to the Jordanian position than to the Palestinian position. In reply, the ambassador, who is also a Fatah Central Committee member, criticized 'Arafat's way of dealing with the Jordanian Government.

Since the signing of the famous Oslo agreement on the exchange of recognition between Israel and the PLO without their knowledge, the Jordanians have had the feeling that the Palestinian leadership is steadily trying to distance itself from Jordan.

It seems that 'Arafat felt uneasy after receiving a message from King Husayn which he answered at the time. That message contained some advice from King Husayn saying that there should be a distinction between the revolution phase and the statehood phase and that the PLO leadership should tackle the region's developments in methods different from the methods it used in the past.

Some well-informed sources say that, because of that message and other factors, 'Arafat now feels that perhaps Jordan was behind the move by the so-called "democratic trend" within the PLO, which includes a number of figures and organizations and which sent a memorandum to the Palestinian president about two weeks ago urging him to change his ways and to introduce major reforms in the various Palestinian official structures.

The same sources believe that the straw which broke the camel's back as far as relations between 'Arafat and Jordan were concerned, was King Husayn's visit to Damascus and then to Egypt without prior consultation with the PLO.

According to many sources, 'Arafat saw King Husayn's remarks, during these two visits, about separate solutions and his country's commitment not to conclude any separate solutions, as directed at him in particular and as

tantamount to an open accusation that the method used by the PLO in the negotiations confirmed that it was proceeding with the separate solution which began with the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

The truth is that any observer of events is bound to notice the recent unusual Syrian-Jordanian rapprochement. One of the signs of that rapprochement is perhaps the fact that the Jordanian press has, for the first time in years, been publishing positive reports about Syria on the occasion of the anniversary of the Corrective Movement led by President Hafiz al-Asad in November 1970.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has information that the Palestinian president has viewed with some suspicion recent statements by King Husayn to the effect that "only God has sovereignty over Jerusalem." It seems that he understood this to mean that Jordan does not wish the PLO to have sovereignty over the holy city.

Furthermore, there are those who claim that, despite Jordan's disengagement from the West Bank in 1988, 'Arafat still suspects that Jordan wants to wield the greatest influence on the autonomy that will emerge in the occupied territory after the Israeli withdrawal.

They believe that 'Arafat is unhappy about the election of former Jordanian Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri as speaker of the new Jordanian House of Representatives because al-Masri is a member of a well-known Palestinian family which hails from Nabulus and because his uncle, Munib al-Masri, might become head of the Palestinian provisional government.

Houses To Be Built for PLO Leaders in Jericho

NC0212084393 Paris AFP in English 0751 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Dec 2 (AFP)—The Palestinians are planning to build a 100-million-dollar luxury residential district in the West Bank town of Jericho to house 1,500 senior PLO families, according to the JERUSALEM REPORT.

Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his colleagues would move in next year as autonomy gets into swing, the bi-monthly magazine said.

Israeli and Palestinian architects have already drawn up the plans and a final decision is awaited from Palestine Liberation Organisation headquarters in Tunis.

Hanna Sinyurah, chairman of the European-Palestinian chamber of commerce in East Jerusalem, told the REPORT he would raise financing with the Swedish government on a forthcoming trip to Stockholm.

The magazine said the Swedes were ready to invest 10 million dollars following the September 13 autonomy deal.

PFLP-GC's Jibril on Opposition to PLO Deal

PM0212103493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Dec 93 p 6

[Interview with Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command, by Sulayman Nimr and Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] [AL-HAYAH] You are opposed to the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Do you want to topple or obstruct it?

[Jibril] What 'Arafat has done is harmful and not in the Palestinian people's interests. Proof of this is that it was not referred to the Palestinian people. This is not rousing rhetoric. It is based on objective foundations, as the agreement offers nothing to refugees in the camps, except a sewage system and improved living conditions. However, 70 percent of Galilee inhabitants may support it, because they feel it will strengthen them to achieve certain demands and equality with Jews as Israeli citizens.

[AL-HAYAH] But what options were proposed before the agreement?

[Jibril] They (the options) were—and still are—open. Liberation issues cannot be easy, and since we started we have said that the battle is long and is governed by one or two generations of mobilization.

[AL-HAYAH] What about the state of despair that prevailed after some 25 years of the revolutionary tide and the failure of all Palestinian organizations?

[Jibril] I do not agree with that view, because when we started in 1965, and six years of underground action before that, we wondered: Can we as a generation achieve victory or not? I have said from the outset that the nature of the enemy we are facing as an Arab nation and the importance of the land geographically and militarily complicate the problem and will take generations, so we have to make a start. Some thought that it was a vacation, although the matter is governed by numerous laws.

From the outset we rejected the question of independent Palestinian decisionmaking, because it is in our interests to take into account the Arab and Islamic reality, because what we are fighting is not Israel and the Jews; we are confronting an ideological program concerning the Jews, the Protestant Church, and the Jehovah's Witnesses. If we say it is a matter of two decades, we would be deluding ourselves. We have a big program ahead of us, and what has happened is a process of helping to achieve the known Western Torah strategy. At any rate, we cannot achieve liberation, we should not give them the keys to the Arab countries. I believe there was a state of no war [and no peace] that prevailed, hesitation, lack of solidarity, disruption of the balances of power, and sectarian disputes inside the nation. But on the other hand, will the situation improve? I ask: Have the Camp David accords solved Egypt's economic problems? We are seeing terrible incidents which could lead to Egypt's partition...

[AL-HAYAH] But what is proposed at present is a comprehensive settlement?

[Jibril] We have seen an example in front of us: full peace in Egypt.

[AL-HAYAH] But it is a separate peace.

[Jibril] It is a full peace from which Egypt has gained nothing. In fact the other peace (comprehensive peace) is more dangerous than that of Camp David, as it will enable the Jews to reach all the Arab countries. Israel's aim is a security aim to be achieved through Syria and an economic aim to be achieved through the rich Arab states. What will happen is more dangerous than the Arab nation's current state, which is already deteriorating.

[AL-HAYAH] How will you embody your opinion of the agreement? By obstructing it or by working to topple it?

[Jibril] We as opposition forces are working not only to obstruct the agreement, but to topple it in several stages. Because the Arab and Islamic people must be mobilized politically first. Then the forces should be massed in an organizational framework so as to include Arab and Islamic parties as well. Then the agreement can be toppled. We must prove that the people reject the agreement, from inside [the occupied territories] and from southern Lebanon, with the allied forces, especially Hizballah.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you want to create an alternative organization to the PLO?

[Jibril] Our aim is to retrieve the hijacked organization from the organization's leader, 'Arafat, and to return it to the national line and its adherence to the known national charter. This is the political aim.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you believe that this aim is faced with political and organizational difficulties, especially as it [the PLO] enjoys Arab and international support, and you have failed in the past to create an alternative organization?

[Jibril] We are aware of the scale of the difficulties facing us. But 'Arafat and those who are with him are also aware of the difficulties facing them. It is an open battle between us, and in the end the PLO will return to its real and influential status. What we are seeing inside, namely the rejection of the agreement, clearly reflects this. We are aware of the size of the forces supporting the agreement, but they cannot recruit a single Palestinian to sacrifice his life for the sake of the agreement. As for us, we have tens of thousands of young men who are ready for martyrdom. We tried in the past before the Oslo agreement to obstruct 'Arafat's march. But we now have a program of confrontation with 'Arafat, and it is a matter of life or death.

[AL-HAYAH] To what extent are you responsible for the stage the Palestinian situation has reached and the fact that the agreement is now the only option for you?

[Jibril] We do not want to see ourselves judged by history. However, some time ago we felt that 'Arafat was heading for what he did indeed head for. This is why there was no honeymoon between us, even though the other factions allied with 'Arafat to make organizational gains.

'Arafat harbors more enmity and feud toward me than anyone else. And he has used all means to conspire against us, even at the personal level. We have never kept silent about any political deviation he embarked on. And it is absolutely untrue that his actions are based on the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council in 1974. Because we wanted to establish a Palestinian state on any piece of land, without recognition and reconciliation. We nearly managed to defeat him, but Arab regimes rescued him at a foreign and Western request. And you can refer to what Israeli security services said, namely that 'Arafat has always been at their service. (Menahem) Begin removed his name from the list of those wanted by Mosad.

We did not keep silent about his march. On the contrary, we reinforced the PLO's presence by all means so that it would be strong, and we began the first military operations in Qiryat Shemona, El Khalesa, in 1974—which enabled 'Arafat to say in his UN address: "I have come to you with an olive branch in one hand and a gun in the other."

[AL-HAYAH] Does your work against the agreement include a confrontation with 'Arafat?

[Jibril] We are now in the position of political confrontation, and we will not be the ones who start combat confrontation, because it is 'Arafat who will start it, and thus we will be forced to confront him militarily. As for the figures who were behind the agreement, they have fallen and one cannot punish the dead.

[AL-HAYAH] What about what you said with regard to liquidating 'Arafat?

[Jibril] I did not say that. I said that his fate will be similar to that of (late Egyptian President Anwar) al-Sadat, and that our people will judge him, because he has struck at the history of Palestinian struggle. I do not believe that our people have not got someone like Khalid al-Islambuli [who assassinated al-Sadat] to punish anyone who is supported by the major states.

[AL-HAYAH] What is the reason for delaying the announcement of the opposition alliance among the "10 factions" [opposed to the peace process], two months after the signing of the agreement?

[Jibril] The road is not easy, because there were no relations of good-neighborliness among these forces. The Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] [PFLP] and the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] (led by George Habash and Nayif Hawatmah) still have 'Arafat's remnants. These remnants have not yet

made their mind up. But our position is crystallizing by the day, and the political program must crystallize by the end of the year.

[AL-HAYAH] It has been said that you are even in disagreement over a name for the long-awaited alliance.

[Jibril] Of course there are differences, but there are not sharp disagreements. It is not to do with a name. That is an insult to these forces. The source of the differences is the lack of coexistence in the past among these organizations. The situation cannot crystallize overnight. There are oppositionists even inside the 'Arafat camp.

[AL-HAYAH] Are you thinking about meeting with them?

[Jibril] No. Because I believe that the debates we have read about are focused on the political dispute. Our hearts are open to any political opposition to 'Arafat's program. We will meet with anyone who says he is against the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement.

[AL-HAYAH] Are the disagreements between you and those opposed to the agreement within the PLO of a similar nature?

[Jibril] We do not want to create an alternative organization. We want to topple the agreement first and then return the PLO to its national line. We (the 10 factions) are trying to solve our own internal problems inside each organization. The imprint of 'Arafat still influences some forces in our camps, and we want to settle the question democratically. It is the first time the Islamic, progressive, and democratic forces have entered into an alliance.

[AL-HAYAH] Will you admit "Fatah—the Revolutionary Council" to your expected alliance?

[Jibril] The alliance will be open to all present and future forces.

[AL-HAYAH] The PFLP—General Command was pan-Arab, then leftist, and now Islamic. What is your explanation for these changes in your march?

[Jibril] We have from the outset said that any Palestinian liberation movement must rely on its Arab reality. Islamic inclinations have existed since underground action, because the religious factor is important for kindling the sacrifice factor. And we are not a party, but a front which includes tendencies which differ intellectually but share one common denominator: the liberation of Palestine. Our Islamic orientation began after the "Islamic Revolution's" victory—which pushed the front forward. Interactions are continuing inside the front. And we have always believed that Islam is an important factor, especially revolutionary Islam.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you not fear that the other forces might raise the question of your link with terrorism in the framework of your opposition to the agreement?

[Jibril] The issue is not new. 'Arafat offered information, be it false or true. Even the states which have received the security information suspect the truth of 'Arafat's information. 'Arafat submitted a security study to the Americans, accusing us of blowing up the Pan Am plane over Lockerbie, but in the end he was proved wrong. 'Arafat will seize any opportunity to harm us by any means. He provides information about us to Mossad, and Hamas cadres were killed as a result of cooperation between Mossad and 'Arafat's security organs.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you have any information about that?

[Jibril] Yes, of course. He also offered information about Fatah elements in order to liquidate and kill them. They will continue to conspire against us by any mean.

[AL-HAYAH] What was the aim of your recent visit to Iran?

[Jibril] I did not visit Iran, but contacts between us have not been interrupted.

[AL-HAYAH] Why did you not participate in the recent escalation in southern Lebanon?

[Jibril] There is an agreement with the Lebanese resistance that we should not claim responsibility for any operation in which martyrs do not fall. The armed struggle program is continuing, and the combat escalation does not include the border strip only, but north Palestine as well.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you expect friction with PLO forces in southern Lebanon?

[Jibril] 'Arafat no longer has any force to carry out any work in the south. His forces are just security forces. And his position in Sidon and al-Rashidiyah is very weak. If we want to finish off his presence, it will be only a matter of hours.

[AL-HAYAH] Are you thinking of reducing the size of your military forces?

[Jibril] No. On the contrary, last week we graduated a new group.

[AL-HAYAH] If a comprehensive settlement is signed in the region, what will your fate in Syria be?

[Jibril] I wonder: Is it in Syria's interests to lose strong cards which could play an important role in the region or the resistance present in southern Lebanon? Is Syria going to sign a peace (agreement) with the Israelis like al-Sadat did and normalize relations? I doubt that Syria is going to do so. It is not wishful thinking. The Arab people in the [Arab] east are different from the Arab Maghreb and Egyptian people on whom al-Sadat imposed the agreement, and I rule out the possibility of their accepting normalization.

[AL-HAYAH] Even in the context of a comprehensive settlement?

[Jibril] Yes. Everyone appreciates the danger of normalization.

[AL-HAYAH] How do you explain your previous negotiations with the Israelis in 1979 and 1985 to secure the release of prisoners?

[Jibril] We negotiated with them but via the International Red Cross Committee. On both occasions I did not sign a joint document. I signed documents addressed to the Red Cross directly. There will be no negotiations with the enemy except on the battleground.

[AL-HAYAH] What will you do organizationally if Syria signs an agreement with Israel? Are you thinking of moving your headquarters to Tehran?

[Jibril] We will not move our headquarters to Tehran or anywhere else. Nor do we fear the battle in which we are engaged, because we are primarily potential martyrs.

PFLP's Habash on Confronting Peace Accord

JN0212114093 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 2 Dec 93 p 13

[Interview with George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP, by 'Abd-al- Rahman al-Khatib in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Khatib] You labeled the signatories of the agreement [Gaza-Jericho First] as deviators from the national fold and accused them of treason and of liquidating the Palestine question. Don't you think this position creates grounds for Palestinian infighting especially after the agreement is implemented?

[Habash] We have adopted a responsible position concerning this threat, and we clearly said that Palestinian infighting is a red line for us unless aggression is committed against us. As for the first part of the question, my answer is that when we find ourselves facing a plot to liquidate our cause, we cannot remain indifferent.

[Al-Khatib] Then you do not differentiate between the Zionist enemy and the Palestinian side that signed the agreement? This is something that provides grounds for Palestinian infighting no matter what you say about a red line.

[Habash] We know very well how dangerous the Zionist plot is, and we have our views on it, but we certainly differentiate between the Palestinian leadership that embarked on that step and the rank and file that still supports this leadership for one reason or another.

[Al-Khatib] You and the 10 factions have a tendency to convene popular conferences, and then to hold a general popular conference. Don't you see that such a conference will necessarily mean an alternative to the PLO, noting that the PLO is not a national coalition front, but the identity and entity of the Palestinian people?

[Habash] Yasir 'Arafat has deviated from the PLO, its charter, national program, and resolutions of the Palestine Council [PNC] and even those of international legitimacy. Therefore, we cannot say that this is the same PLO. On this basis, if the conditions we set are available according to which we can say that we represent the PLO in terms of charter, programs, and PNC resolutions we will not object, and will have the right to say that we represent the PLO. But this is linked to the availability of the conditions, such as adherence to the charter and program, and within a certain concept which aims to rebuild the PLO on democratic bases.

[Al-Khatib] You don't deny that there will be double representation and an alternative to the PLO?

[Habash] As I said earlier, 'Arafat has deviated from the PLO's program and charter.

[Al-Khatib] It is known that the Gaza-Jericho agreement will necessarily produce a self-rule council, a Palestinian police force, and other institutions, what is your position on and role in these institutions and how are you going to confront, or deal with them?

[Habash] We have adopted clear and decisive decisions within the framework of the 10 factions. We will not deal with the Gaza-Jericho agreement and all that will result from it, but we will maintain our links with our masses in the occupied Arab territories. This is a tactical position that reconciles between our decisive political position in refusing to deal with the accord and its results, and at the same time maintaining our links with our masses in the occupied territories.

[Al-Khatib] Will that connection be established via the self-rule institutions?

[Habash] I have answered this before.

[Al-Khatib] You reject the agreement in part and parcel. What is your alternative? The continued Zionist occupation for example?

[Habash] This cannot be our alternative, and I regret your question. Our alternative is to continue the struggle to create balances of power on the ground that would enable us, at this stage at least, to apply the resolutions of international legitimacy and the resolutions that stipulate repatriation, the state, and the right to self-determination. We can create these balances through the continued intifadah, by unifying the forces opposing the liquidationist scheme, through armed struggle and struggle within the ranks of the masses to expose the threats of that agreement, and also by coordinating with the other Arab forces that reject this scheme.

[Al-Khatib] You have said that you wager on the Palestinian intifadah and its continuation as a reservoir of Palestinian struggle and as an alternative. But the three pillars of this intifadah have received a blow. First, the political pillar received a blow after the split of the Unified National Leadership. Second, the economic pillar received a blow, and we feel that you as 10 factions

cannot provide the needs of the Palestinian people inside. And, third, the organizational pillar or the intifadah infrastructure was dealt a blow by Israel, and, it is said that the presence of the 10 factions, with the exception of one or two factions, is somewhat weak.

[Habash] The Palestinian people have raised the slogan of freedom and independence. Our assessment of the current reality of the intifadah is that our masses are still sticking to this slogan. Anyone who listens to radios, including the Israeli radio, knows that the intifadah is still there despite the problems which it is facing because of the agreement.

[Al-Khatib] Do you not see that your opposition to the agreement is a passive opposition? Certainly, you agree that it is not enough to say that we are against the agreement. So far, you have offered theoretical talk and general slogans.

[Habash] These questions are inspired by what the signatories to the agreement raise. We have our program and it does not consist of only pursuing the intifadah. We want to pursue the intifadah to establish balances of power that will achieve the national program of repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state, or, at least the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, which call for the removal of the occupation and the settlements and for complete withdrawal, including from Jerusalem. We struggle to implement this program and these resolutions which tally with our national program.

[Al-Khatib] As a logical and methodological man, do you not believe that this agreement will lead to an independent Palestinian state, or to a state that is linked to Jordan within the framework of a confederation?

[Habash] Israel will accept the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital only if there is a balance of power. From my good knowledge of the Zionist program and the Israeli schemes, I completely rule this out. The independent Palestinian state will be established only through the Palestinian intifadah, armed struggle, and official Arab coordination, not to mention the implementation of the international legitimacy resolutions.

[Al-Khatib] Do you in the PFLP have any fears that Hamas might control the national Islamic front that you have established?

[Habash] At this moment, our attention is rivetted to the basic threat represented by Israel and the Zionist schemes. It is a mistake if we devote our attention to settle our differences at this time.

On the contrary, we seek to enhance cooperation and alliance among all the forces which oppose the Zionist scheme and are against the agreement. We do not deny there are differences among us, but we focus our attention on the common denominators, and seek to marginalize the differences. [passage omitted]

Fatah's al-Hasan: No Decision on Heading Team

PM0212110493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Nov 93 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Hani al-Hasan: Our Option Should Not Be To Safeguard Ourselves or Neglect Aims"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-HAYAH—In an attempt to throw light on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, and at an invitation from the Oxford Arab Society, Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan delivered a lecture at St Anthony's College in Oxford University the evening of the day before yesterday, in which he dealt with the self-rule agreement, beginning with Gaza and Jericho, in terms of advantages and disadvantages. He stressed that the "situation does not need a wailing wall, the agreement is not so bad that we should weep over it."

On the dangers of the agreement, al-Hasan repeated what Arab circles in general and Palestinian circles in particular have expressed, namely continuing concerns over normalization of relations with Israel and the possibilities of the Hebrew state overrunning [ijtiyah] the Arab region and of Israel's turning into a regional state. He spoke about the need for Arab coordination and for the Palestinians to move toward the Arabs, not toward Israel, so as to achieve a balance.

He pointed to the "importance of unity in the framework of an economic group comprising the Palestinians, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq."

He denied that he has taken over as head of the [Palestinian] delegation to the multilateral negotiations on the Middle East. He pointed out that "we decided in Fatah that I should take responsibility for the multilaterals, but I will not accept this until we set and draw up a paper defining our direction. On the basis of the outcome of this dialogue I will decide whether or not to agree to head the delegation."

Al-Hasan expressed numerous criticisms of the agreement. He criticized deferring the basic issues like territory, Jerusalem, settlements, borders, refugees, and relationship with neighbors to the final phase. He said that the most dangerous aspect of what is happening is to allow "territory to be subject to nJgotiation, because that means agreeing in principle to sharing it."

He also criticized the PLO's recognition of Israel's right to security, peace, and existence, and its abandonment of the clauses of the Palestinian national charter and the aims without any significant return. [passage omitted]

Concluding his lecture, he said that "the road is still long, and we are at the beginning. The real battle will begin in the negotiations of the final phase. And we must understand that the balances of power will govern matters." He went on: "I am happy that after the slip made in rushing toward Israel, a kind of balance has begun to return. This is because our fate depends on Jordan's future and that of Lebanon and Syria. If this front

collapses, it will mean that our fate in the Middle East will be bad." [passage omitted]

Al-Hasan on Accord, Opposition

JN0212091793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Dec 93 p 20

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee Member Hani al-Hasan in London by Khalid al-Hurub; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Hurub] First, we would like to ask about your position on recent developments, particularly on the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. At the outset, you strongly opposed the agreement, then you joined the peace process and were appointed head of the Palestinian negotiating team to the multilateral talks.

[Al-Hasan] I believe that administering political struggle is an art, and one of the most important rules that govern the behavior of the political leader within this art is the search for understanding, even with those with different opinions.

During this search for understanding, positions should not be changed as a favor to the other side, though man necessarily develops his positions all the time. As for my position on the Gaza-Jericho agreement, I think time has proved it to be right. It has been proved that it was a mistake to accept the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference. Today's events prove that the Gaza-Jericho agreement, according to the Israeli concept, is only a means for using the Palestinians to maintain Israel's security and economic interests. As for what you termed joining the peace process, all that happened was that the brothers in the Fatah Central Committee decided that I should lead the multilateral talks. I consider this an organizational matter. Nevertheless, I have not so far participated in any negotiating session. I am preparing a political paper aimed at drafting a joint concept for political action, especially concerning the expected future developments that will mainly start to take place two years from now during negotiations on the final status. In my view, what is important is the fate of the land and the direction of Palestinian action. Therefore, my final position on the decision made by the Fatah Movement depends on reaching an understanding on the political paper I will present. I cannot defend something that I do not believe in.

[Al-Hurub] Then, does this mean that your acceptance is conditional on what you said and on the paper you are preparing?

[Al-Hasan] Yes, this is what happens in the political struggle. Sometimes you present something to the other party in order to confuse him. The objective should be how to draw up a clear policy that satisfies our national conscience and that is acceptable to the people.

[Al-Hurub] In your recent lecture in Oxford, you spoke about a Palestinian trend that has an identical view with that of the Israeli Labor Party, and whose general leaning is toward Israel and not the Arabs. This is the trend that seems to have been imposed through Gaza-Jericho agreement. How do you estimate the size of this trend, and what is its future within the Palestinian action?

[Al-Hasan] The Israelis really work according to a studied system. First, they want to make the Palestinians desperate. Second, they want to convince the Palestinians that they will not get anything other than what Israel gives. Third, they work for giving prominence to a Palestinian group that adopts the Labor Party's viewpoint. Fourth, they want us to change toward their view and not the reverse. For example, they want us to drop all the charter's anti-Zionism articles, while they are not prepared to abolish the law of return or to change the racial aspects of the Zionist concept. However, this trend cannot have weight within the Palestinian people. But after what happened in the Gulf, this trend was pushed forward through the international dimension of the problem. I am confident that time will clarify the picture to the Palestinian people, and this trend will not be able to impose its itself. We hear for example the continuous anti-Arab talk and the talk about merging the Palestinian economy with the Israeli economy. This trend is behind such talk. Our people's eventual leaning will never be toward any direction other than the Arab and Islamic nations.

[Al-Hurub] World media in general and the British media in particular speak of the dirty role the Palestinian entity will play in the security field in terms of suppressing the intifadah, or the parties which still believe in military action against the occupation. What do you have to say to this description?

[Al-Hasan] This is an accurate description of Israeli intentions and objectives. It is a factual description because Israel does not think of withdrawing from the West Bank. Therefore, it wants to fabricate intra-Palestinian fighting that it will use as an excuse before the world to postpone withdrawal and to have the world forget about the idea of withdrawal. As Palestinians, we should be alert to this. Those who sully their hands with Palestinin blood are killers and criminals. The term Palestinian applies to all Palestinians, whether they are affiliated to Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], or any other movement. Differences can be solved only through dialogue and a common understanding of what national issues mean. National issues are viewed as such when there is consensus on them. Generally speaking, I am not afraid of such an eventuality taking place on the ground, particularly following the recent glorious days when we saw the Fatah Hawks, the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, and the Red Eagle join forces to confront the Israeli who killed a Fatah member, martyr Ahmad Abu-al-Rish, who had believed that the Israelis had pardoned him.

[Al-Hurub] Then the opposition has the right to say that the question of resistance to the occupation of the land enjoys national consensus and that it will pursue its military action against it? On the opposite side, many

statements by Palestinian officials indicate that the future authority will suppress any military action?

[Al-Hasan] These statements are within a trend that surfaced following the Gaza-Jericho agreement, as some believed that placating the Israelis would secure them a role in the future authority. We, in Fatah, forcefully confronted this trend, particularly when an official said on Israeli television that he would curb the Palestinian resistance. He was taken to account for this. We, in Fatah, will offer our lives for the sake of the opposition, be it from Hamas, the PFLP, or the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] because no sound militant political action can exist without two parties: the supporters and the opposition. The opposition forces the first party to be creative. The opposition sometimes is right and the supporters too. They complement each other.

[Al-Hurub] Let us move to another topic; the form of the political system of the upcoming Palestinian authority. There are signs that it will be closer to a dictatorship than a democracy, particularly with Israel encouraging this. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said in Washington a few weeks ago that democracy does not suit all Third World countries. What form do you expect this authority to take?

[Al-Hasan] It goes without saying that Rabin and his allies do not wish to see the Arab nation have sound democratic regimes because the regimes which do not heed the people's opinion and where the people cannot take the ruler to account will not progress. As I said, Rabin does not wish to withdraw from the West Bank. His only desire is to seek a way out of his economic dilemma, how to obtain funds, and how to evade accounting for how these funds were spent. In other words, Rabin wants to eat the bait but not the hook. Since he does not want to withdraw, he started saying that the people are not yet prepared for democracy and, therefore, withdrawal is not possible at this time.

[Al-Hurub] But this attitude by Rabin is accepted by certain Palestinian forces within the PLO leadership. This can be clearly seen from the tendency to appoint the authority, and not elect it.

[Al-Hasan] Undoubtedly, those who say that the Palestinians are not worthy of elections and cannot exercise democracy suffer a disturbance, a political disturbance, in their minds which the great Palestinian people are not suffering.

[Al-Hurub] Talking about elections and democracy, how do you assess the outcome of Bi'r Zayt University elections and the victory scored by the coalition of the opposition forces, including Hamas, the PFLP, the DFLP, and Fatah's Martyr Abu-Jihad Battalions?

[Al-Hasan] The elections of Bi'r Zayt University undoubtedly have a great political—or, what you may call democratic-political—significance. The world, and the PLO Leadership must know that the Palestinian people have through this event voiced dissatisfaction. Had the elections been held three months earlier, the result would have been different. But the people's experience with the dimensions of the signed agreement made the picture clearer for this intellectual group, which follows current affairs. This should provide a warning signal to the PLO leadership. It should take notice: If it does not reconsider its policies, it will be isolated.

[Al-Hurub] But do you not think that this result will heighten the concerns of that leadership and may prompt it to avoid any future elections, regardless of their purpose?

[Al-Hasan] This will be like meting punishment on oneself. We must respect the will of the people. When any leadership reaches the conclusion that the people are not mature enough to exercise their rights, then this opinion will practically be the first nail in the coffin of that leadership, politically speaking. We must understand that the concept of centralized democracy—that is voting in favor of the regime regardless of whether it was right or wrong—was one of the reasons behind the collapse of the Soviet Union. Organizational discipline is required in cases that are not linked to the national consciousness. When we discuss the future of the land, what governs us here is the national consciousness, which says not a single grain of soil in this land should be relinquished, and not the opinion of this or that group. Consequently, I applaud the Fatah group in Bi'r Zayt University, which placed the homeland before the organization and went in line with the national consciousness.

[Al-Hurub] The Palestinian opposition has declared it will not use violence to express its opposition to, and rejection of the agreement. It also denounced any intra-Palestinian fighting. How do you view the opposition's methods and course?

[Al-Hasan] I take this opportunity to extend greetings to the brothers who valiantly confronted the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the recent phase as a whole, particularly the brothers in jihad and struggle in Hamas, the PFLP, and the DFLP. Undoubtedly, the presence of this voice, as well as the Fatah forces, is an important event from a historic viewpoint. The world must know that the Palestinian people have not accepted any formula that would lead to the relinquishment of their territory. I believe that it is important and necessary for these forces to remain. I also think that by declaring that they will not get involved in intra-Palestinian fighting and violence, they demonstrated great political maturity because this is indeed a real threat. By announcing the correct path, they have dealt a great blow to the Israeli scheme and its agents who are trying to set the Palestinians against each other.

[Al-Hurub] What then do you think the opposition should do to counter the agreement?

[Al-Hasan] I think that after 13 December (the theoretical date for Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho), there should be a broad-based Palestinian meeting, not only among the Palestinian forces, but also among the

various political views, to discuss what will happen after 13 December. We in the opposition—which is part and parcel of the Palestinian people—must acknowledge the fact that the implementation of the agreement has begun. This is a reality and a serious thing indeed. Reality because it is taking place, and serious because we do not know exactly how it will be implemented. Will it be implemented within the context of an intra-Palestinian fighting? Will the Palestinian people be free to express their opinion in future issues? Will the authority have an Arab or Israeli leaning? Will there be an authority that will stick to complete withdrawal, reject the presence of settlements, and not relinquish Jerusalem? Or will these issues be a subject for bargaining? The mission of the opposition forces, starting with Fatah opposition to all other opposition factions, has indeed started. The opposition will face its real test after 13 December.

Fatah Militants Call for Surge in Intifadah

NC0212105793 Paris AFP in English 0947 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Dec 2 (AFP)—Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah movement in the West Bank town of Ramallah issued Thursday a blood-curdling call to renew the intifadah or uprising against Israeli occupation.

"Our blood will pour in a raging volcano that will submerge the enemy," the Ramallah branch of the PLO's mainstream group said in a statement.

"We are calling for revolution and intifadah ... for a fire that will burn the killers of Hawks and Panthers," Fatah said in a reference to Israel's shooting dead of PLO fighters who had halted operations since the September 13 autonomy agreement.

"We do not differentiate between those who support and those who oppose (the peace process). The occupiers' bullets don't differentiate between us," the statement said.

"Let us write our history with our blood and teach the enemy a lesson."

On the Gaza Strip, a soldier opened fire wounding a Palestinian during an argument outside Jabaliya refugee camp near Gaza City on Thursday [2 December], a correspondent reported.

The army's killing Sunday of a Fatah Hawk led the military wing of the PLO in Gaza to return to the armed struggle and ignited the worst clashes since the autonomy deal was signed.

However a strike which continued for a fourth day on Thursday over the killing was called off during the afternoon and life slowly returned to normal.

Troops kept a low profile following Tuesday's unprecedented accord between the Israeli army and the PLO in Gaza to cool down an explosive situation just hours after soldiers shot one Palestinian dead and wounded 80.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the army to meet top members of Fatah in Gaza after widespread rioting put the autonomy deal in jeopardy ahead of the December 13 deadline for troop withdrawals to start.

Meanwhile the Moslem fundamentalist shooting against Israeli settlers claimed a second life Thursday when a 19-year-old religious student died of his wounds, doctors said.

Yitzhaq Weinstock was one of three people injured when militants of the Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) opened fire on settlers standing by a broken down car near the West Bank town of al-Birah on Wednesday.

A 24-year-old nursery teacher died immediately.

Hundreds of settlers blocked main roads for several hours in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Thursday morning in protest at the killings, the ninth and 10th Israelis murdered by Palestinians since the autonomy agreement.

DFLP Claims Responsibility for Terror Attack

JN0112193793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] After an anonymous spokesman, who said he belongs to the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, the armed wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has announced that his group is responsible for killing an Israeli settler and wounding three others in al-Birah today, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] also claimed responsibility for the operation.

In a statement distributed in Damascus, the DFLP said that it launched the operation in retaliation for the killing of student Rami 'Izzat al-Ghazzawi from al-Birah, the Palestinian leader 'Imad 'Aqil, and the two strugglers Ahmad Abu-al-Rish and Khalid al-Zir by the Israeli occupation forces and settlers. The statement said that the fedayeen group returned safely to its base.

Moreover, the DFLP statement warned the Israeli settlers against exercising beligerence against the Palestinian people, stressing that the only solution to secure these settlers' safety is to leave the Palestinian territories and return them to their original owners.

Police Official on Deployment in Territories

NC0112155093 Paris AFP in English 1430 GMT 1 Dec 93

[By Barry Parker]

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, Dec 1 (AFP)—Up to 6,000 Palestinian police will be deployed in the first stage of autonomy, said the "brigadier-general" sent to the Gaza Strip to ensure a smooth takeover.

"We will have 5,000-6,000 men in the Gaza Strip and Jericho during the first stage," General Ziyad 'Arif told

AFP Wednesday [1 December] in his first interview since the PLO sent him to take charge of preparations here.

From next week 500 Gazans who served in the Israeli police or trained as police before the uprising began in December 1987 will take a crash refresher course.

"They will be ready to go into the police stations," the 49-year-old 'Arif said at his family home in Gaza City.

"If the Israelis agree to start their withdrawal on December 13, Palestinian policemen will be on the streets on December 13."

Under the September 13 Israel-PLO autonomy agreement the army is to start a four-month withdrawal from Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho by December 13. But negotiations have so far failed to produce a withdrawal plan.

A first batch of 1,500 men will be despatched from Cairo as soon as the withdrawal starts, he said.

They will be from Palestine Liberation Army units who will be converted into police and barracked in ex-Israeli camps.

"As the Israelis withdraw we will take over bringing in more men."

At a later stage, when Palestinian police move into the rest of the West Bank, the force will swell to 13,000-15,000.

He explained that the force would break down into three sections: national police, a security service and police.

'Arif said preparations were going well, but he accused the Israelis of offering little cooperation.

"They are not making my job any easier," he said.

Since arriving a week ago, 'Arif has been granted only one meeting with the military administration and that only with an Arab affairs officer, not the head.

'Arif said he had urged the Israelis to ease the oppression, lift the night curfew and release prisoners to allow real cooperation to begin for a new era of peace.

He has been unable to visit any of the army camps the Palestinians hope to take over or even to move about freely.

"They have not given me a permit to go to Jericho," he said. "They want an official document from the PLO explaining my role."

'Arif, who graduated from the Egyptian police academy in 1967, said the issue had been taken up with the head of the Israeli delegation negotiating the implementation of autonomy. Much of the general's time has been spent meeting leaders of all the Palestinian factions to explain the police would simply maintain order, not play politics.

He said he expected no trouble from groups opposed to autonomy such as the fundamentalists of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

"Don't ask me about guns. Our people just want an end to occupation, not more shooting," he said.

"Some officers will of course have pistols," said the general who was security chief for the office of the Governor General of Gaza in Cairo, which looks after Palestinian affairs under the Egyptian government.

A police chief has not been appointed, but officers will wear either blue or khaki uniforms.

The new badge shows a Palestinian flag and the golden dome of Jerusalem's al-Aqsa mosque circled by olive branches. An inscription on the badge from the Koran reads: "May God keep my country safe".

Official Denies Police Assembling in Jordan

PM0112123693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Nov 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Official Denies Assembly of Police in Jordan"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A Palestinian official has denied reports that Palestinian forces have been assembled in Jordan in preparation for their entry into Jericho, stressing that this has not happened yet.

Hajj Khalid Sammar, Palestinian information official in Amman and the political proxy concerned with the Palestinian forces, has said that the forces will be assembled at a later stage after some technical, administrative, and financial difficulties have been overcome. He stated that this step will take place at the first possible opportunity and before 13 December, the date set for implementing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the ground.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the Palestinian official added that there are Israeli obstacles to this matter, especially after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent statements, in which he announced that this date "is not a sacrosanct date with regard to implementing the agreement."

The official stressed that the PLO stresses the need to begin to implement the agreement on the agreed date. This is in the knowledge that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has announced this on several occasions, notably during his current tour of the Scandinavian states.

Algeria

Dialogue Commission Spokesman Assesses Developments

LD0112170193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Excerpts] The rapporteur of the National Dialogue Commission yesterday assessed the latest developments in the national dialogue, in the light of the recent Higher State Council [HCE] statement on the one hand, and the preliminary results of the multilateral meetings, on the other. Zohra Zemmit has the details:

[Zemmit] [passage omitted] The official spokesman of the Dialogue Commission made clear that the withdrawal of the Socialist Forces's Front and the Movement for Democracy in Algeria would not affect the multilateral meetings which are still underway. Mr. Abdelkader Bensalah said from the premises of the multilateral meetings that the Commission had felt confident that consensus could not be reached in the absence of an important section of society. [passage omitted]

With regard to the possibility of the authority taking further measures, Bensalah stressed that the Higher State Council's steps were liable to develop; however, everything depends on the extent of the response the others would show to the HCE, meaning it is linked to the progress achieved in the sphere of civil peace from all the parties. [passage omitted]

If what has remained in front of the National Commission and the political society in general is only the problem of having the participation of the tendencies of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], a large number of observers have found the recent Higher State Council statement an acceptable framework, which gives these tendencies the opportunity and room to express themselves. [passage omitted]

Some parties and political figures are able to act as a link and a channel for the figures who are qualified to represent some sections of the dissolved FIS at the negotiating table. This does not mean only the technical framework of the participation, it also involves granting enough guarantees to enable these sections to be integrated in the political life within the state institutions that are capable of protecting the majority in order to be able to practice power and to protect the minority and its right to existence and power sharing. [passage omitted]

Workers Party Urges Lifting of State of Emergency

LD0112232293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] The Workers' Party leadership today held a news conference at the headquarters of the party, in which it touched upon the latest developments on the political scene, and underlined its position on a number of issues, including the national dialogue track. Our colleague Noureddine Moussadek was present at the conference and recorded an excerpt of the Workers' Party's position on the expected national conference, stated by the party's spokeswoman Louisa Hannoun:

[Begin Hannoun recording] There are adventurists who were punished by the people in December 1991, who were rejected, totally thrown out by the people. These adventurists are today trying to use and play on the chaos, and this completely obscures the political situation. They are playing on it in order to dismantle the country as a whole, as a territorial unit, in the name of a demand or on behalf of someone. Therefore, there does exist a danger to Algerian unity, the unity of the Algerian nation. If this policy, which is now being proposed by the Higher State Council [HCE], is carried out, then it would lead to the dismantling of all Algeria, all the republic. Countries like Yugoslavia were stronger than Algeria.

We, the Workers' Party, cannot accept that the parties are used as hostages. I believe that all are conscious, the responsible parties that feel that they belong to the interests of the people and the unity of the Algerian nation have their own respective positions to these issues. They cannot be used as hostages by the HCE in this process [where the HCE seeks to ensure that its policy prevails]. If the objective of a national conference and of this dialogue is indeed to get the country out of the impasse, then the situation requires solutions and quick answers: the lifting of the state of emergency; the release of prisoners, all prisoners; and the restoration of liberties. The people must breathe, regain confidence, and become engaged in dialogue and negotiation, instead of counting the dead and prisoners everyday, and witnessing arrests. We must hear our voices, not gunfire. [end recording]

Interior Minister Notes Domestic 'Crisis,' Security

LD0112223193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Salim Saadi today chaired a working session in Tizi Ouzou Province that comprised governors, district heads, local authorities, and municipal councils in the provinces of Tizi Ouzou, Bejaia, Bouira, and Boumerdes.

In his lengthy address, Salim Saadi said our battle today was one of running and building up a strong state with institutions and administrations. The interior minister and local authorities observed that Algeria was today living through its most serious crisis since independence. This crisis was the result of an era characterized by lack of planning and demagogic speeches.

The minister explained that the features of the crisis began to appear clearly at the beginning of 1986 with the fall in petrol revenues. This was followed by the events of October 1988.

On the security situation, Salim Saadi said: There is no civil war in Algeria as some people claim. Other points Salim Saadi touched upon included the national dialogue and the transitional period, which he said was an inevitable period. Those who refused to have anything to do with it were only thinking of their personal interests. [passage omitted]

Judge Assassinated in Blida

LD0112151993 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1400 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Islamic militants armed with automatic pistols and sawn-off hunting rifles shot dead a judge [magistrat] in Blida. Mahfoud Kerdali aged 46, is the fifth judge to be assassinated since 15 May. He practiced in the Algiers court.

Defense Minister Meets With French Envoy

LD0112134893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] National Defense Minister Lamine Zeroual has this morning received at his ministry Bernard Kessedjian, France's ambassador to Algeria, who requested the meeting.

The meeting was attended by the directorate secretary-general at the National Defense Ministry, the director for foreign affairs and cooperation at the ministry, and the French military attache. The two sides exchanged views on topics of mutual interest.

Egypt

U.S. Defense Official, Delegation Arrive in Cairo

NC0112131493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—Frank Wisner, U.S. under secretary of defense for policy, arrived in Cairo from Amman this morning on a four-day visit to Egypt. Wisner is heading a high-level military delegation. The U.S. official's visit to Egypt is part of a tour including Jordan, Israel, and Saudi Arabia.

The Egyptian-U.S. talks will begin at the Defense Ministry building today and will deal with military cooperation between the two countries. President Husni Mubarak will receive the visiting U.S. delegation tomorrow morning.

Wisner and the members of his delegation were received by Major General Ahmad 'Abd-al-Hamid, commander of the Central Military Zone.

Meets Defense Minister

NC0212085993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, received Frank Wisner, U.S. under secretary of defense for policy, and his accompanying delegation, at the Defense Ministry today. Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Salah Halabi and senior commanders of the Armed Forces attended the session.

The visit is part of the efforts to consolidate military cooperation between Egypt and the United States. Wisner and Egyptian officials will also review issues of common concern to both countries.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Arrives in Cairo

NC0112214093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—John Shattuck, assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs in the U.S. State Department, arrived in Cairo tonight from Israel for a four-day visit to Egypt.

In an arrival statement, the U.S. official said that during his visit he will hold talks with the foreign, interior, and justice ministers, as well as with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary in the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, to discuss matters of concern to both countries within the framework of the consultations now being held by the U.S. State Department.

Musa Comments on CSCE Meeting, Peace Process

NC0112221593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from Rome tonight, after leading Egypt's delegation to the CSCE meetings.

His excellency said that this was the first time Egypt had participated in this conference. Egypt did so because it believes that Middle Eastern and European security are interrelated.

Musa said that Egypt called for closer cooperation between Europe and the Middle East. He recalled that President Husni Mubarak had proposed the establishment of a club for Mediterranean countries. Egypt, Musa added, also called on Europe to support the establishment of an African mechanism to settle disputes through peaceful means.

The foreign minister pointed out that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will arrive in Cairo next Wednesday [8 December]. The visit, Musa added, will provide an opportunity to discuss the consultations that he held in Rome and also the recent exchanges that Egypt has had with Jordan, Syria, and the Palestinians on ways to boost the peace process, remove the obstacles on the Palestinian-Israeli track, and iron out the difficulties on the Syrian-Israeli track.

Commenting on the situation in Gaza, Musa said that the incidents there are regrettable. He called for a faithful implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, pointing out that such an implementation would help alleviate frustration among the Palestinians. Musa also called for accelerating the pace of withdrawal and for a genuine transfer of power to the Palestinians to take place. This, he said, would be the first step to implementing Palestinian self-rule. Musa added that the current process involves a transitional phase followed by a final one.

Minister Musa will present a report to President Mubarak concerning the outcome of the CSCE meetings and the talks he held in Rome.

Interior Minister Comments on Terrorism

NC0112173993 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi emphasized that there can be no dialogue with terrorists or extremists who commit crimes and act beyond the law and legitimacy. The minister made these remarks in a statement to the National Defense Committee of the People's Assembly.

The minister stated that the Interior Ministry now has full information on the terrorist organizations, both at home and abroad, and those behind them who pretend to be peaceful. He added that the events in the past few months have proved that there is full cooperation between the people and the police, and there have been many positive examples of this cooperation that will be made public in a few days.

The interior minister stressed that the terrorist attempt on the life of the prime minister constitutes a new element of escalation in the terrorist scheme and that the political and executive leaderships are determined beyond any hesitation to undermine the pillars of terrorism. He noted that extremely important clues regarding the assassination attempt on Dr. Sidqi have been discovered and that details about these clues will be released later. The minister emphasized that the top priorities among the government's assignments are to safeguard the security of the homeland and the citizens, to confront terrorism firmly, and to consolidate the stability needed for promoting the process of reforms and development.

Two Undercover Policemen Killed in Dayrut

NC0212121693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1132 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Asyut, 2 Dec (MENA)—Two undercover detectives from the Asyut Security Directorate—Muhammad Mahmud Faraj Hammad, a warrant officer, and Fathi 'Ali Ahmad Sa'd, a first sergeant—were shot dead by unknown assailants today. The incident took place in the town of Dayrut.

Senior officers in Asyut's Security Directorate, detectives, and forensic experts left immediately for the site of the attack. The area was cordoned off and a search mounted to find the culprits and the weapons used in the incident.

Editorial Denounces Attack on Sidqi, 'Terrorism'

NC0112160593 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 26 Nov 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Enough Destruction of Egypt's Future"]

[Text] It is evident that terrorism seeks to inundate Egypt in a sea of blood. It is also evident that the objective is to kill the largest number of innocent people, regardless of whether they are children or young students.

The grotesque incident represented by the attack on Dr. 'Atif Sidqi yesterday was aimed not only at the person of the prime minister, but also against the security and stability of all Egyptians as well as against the future of Egypt.

The introduction of booby-trapped cars to the world of terrorism in Egypt confirms that terrorism is no longer concerned with the lives of the Egyptian people to whom the terrorists claim they belong.

This incident has moved Egypt to a grave turning point that will steer the homeland to a dark future. This incident threatens all reform attempts and obstructs the development processes. The escalation of terrorist operations would generate violence and counter-violence and would, consequently, drown the country in a maelstrom whose magnitude is unknown even to the engineers of these operations.

Egypt's future is threatened, and the lives of citizens are threatened by destruction and explosions. Is this what Islam advocates?

We urge those groups to come to an agreement for the sake of Egypt and the security and stability of the Egyptian people. It's neither in the interest of the homeland nor in the interest of any group or faction that the fall of victims and the shedding of blood continue. The blood that is being shed belongs to innocent Egyptians.

For the sake of Egypt we condemn such operations; and also for the sake of Egypt we ask those groups to stop their operations, which only serve Egypt's enemies. Egypt has suffered enough and stands to lose before the world's public as a result of the collapse of the tourism industry and the loss of billions [not further identified] in national income.

What some sons of Egypt are doing to this wounded homeland is wrong.

Labor Party Official Discusses Islamist Aims

NC0112152793 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 29 Nov 93 pp 44-46

[Interview with Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn by Majdah Sabra; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Sabra] What do the Islamists in Egypt want?

[Husayn] Islamists in Egypt or elsewhere want to establish an Islamic society. Therefore, this requires that the regime in turn must be Islamist. The state's powers and capabilities must be used to implement Islam's program for comprehensive development and to achieve a complete renaissance embracing values, culture, economy, and defense capability.

[Sabra] Do the Islamists want to overthrow the present regime in Egypt and if so, what is their program?

[Husayn] Certainly, if the present regime rejects the Islamic program, we aim to change it. Our party aims to effect this change through parliamentary means. Therefore, in our current battle we focus on developing the current political system in Egypt and on bringing about free elections. We believe that free elections will necessarily lead to the downfall of the present government and its policies and to its replacement by those chosen by the people. I believe the Islamic tendencies in this case will occupy a great place in running the affairs of the country.

[Sabra] Turning the country into an Islamic republic?

[Husayn] Yes, through general elections. [passage omitted]

[Sabra] The Nasirites in the "Egypt's Revolution" organization are the only ones who have fought the Zionist-U.S. presence in Egypt while the Islamists are fighting Egypt's sons, that is, its soldiers and policemen. Are the Islamists wrong in their priorities?

[Husayn] It is known that the Islamic movement in Egypt is not one trend, but is composed of several groups and parties. Each group or party has its own concepts and calculations. I am not aware of the real reasons that prompt these Islamic groups to resort to violence and to place a priority on confronting the local security forces instead of the foreign forces or the Israeli presence in Egypt. I do not know the real reasons for these calculations. However, as far as we are concerned in the Labor Party, our calculations are clear. The Israeli enemy and its U.S. ally are at the head of the list of the enemies to whom we must deal heavy blows. However, our blows are political. We in the Labor Party work within the framework of the law. We do not use bullets or rocket-propelled grenades.

[Sabra] The party's role is confined to what activity?

[Husayn] We have youth activities. We have youth camps giving educational and cultural programs but no military training. [passage omitted]

[Sabra] Is there any coordination between the Labor Party and the Islamic groups?

[Husayn] There is no coordination between us and the Islamic groups that are resorting to violence and terrorism. However, there is a certain degree of coordination between the Labor Party and the Muslim Brotherhood group. We cooperate in the enlightenment of the masses, in general elections, and in some professional associations. Our call for cooperation is not confined to the Muslim Brotherhood group but also includes the pan-Arab forces, such as the Nasirite party in Egypt. We call for cooperation to confront hostile plans and the Egyptian Government's oppression and corrupt policy. [passage omitted]

Security Accord With Afghanistan Viewed

NC0112160493 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 23 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] Reporting on the security agreement between Egypt and Afghanistan, REUTER noted that Egypt has convinced the Afghan Government to sign the agreement in an attempt to confront the extremists, who have been using Afghanistan as a staging point to launch their operations against Egypt and the Arab world.

Citing the report, sources said the agreement will remain ink on paper due to obstacles impeding its implementation. The sources noted that the agreement has been opposed by the leaders of the powerful Afghan parties led by Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, who refuses to hand over the Arabs who had fought on their side against the Soviet occupation for 10 years.

The sources pointed out that Egyptian extremist leaders intend to leave for Europe or to any other nearby place where they can operate. The report said that Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, whose visit to Egypt was given prominence by the Egyptian media, has limited influence in Afghanistan. The report noted that Rabbani and Hekmatyar received Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Islamic Front in Sudan, upon Rabbani's return from Egypt.

Citing security sources, the report affirmed that the Egyptian extremists continue to enjoy the protection of the Afghan factions. The report said that hundreds of Arab extremists moved from Pakistan to Afghanistan early this year when Pakistan was pressured by the United States and Egypt to curb the extremists' activities.

The report said that a leader of the al-Jihad group has recently been granted a residence permit in Denmark. The report also noted that Ayman al-Zawahiri is currently residing in Switzerland pending approval of his request for political asylum.

Kuwait

Defense Minister Says Russia Visit 'Successful'

LD0212102293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0838 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Moscow, 2 Dec (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah assessed his visit to the Russian Federation for talks with Russian officials as "very successful," adding that it "took place in a friendly atmosphere."

In a statement to KUNA today, Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah said that the most important achievements were the signing of the military cooperation agreement between the two countries, getting acquainted with some of the weapons systems produced by the Russian Federation, and opening doors for cooperation, not only between Russia and Kuwait, but between Russia and all the Gulf Cooperation Council member-states.

He said the visit of the Kuwaiti military delegation to Moscow stressed the bonds of Kuwaiti-Russian friendship and addressed a clear message to the Iraqi regime that the Russian Federation stands on the side of justice which is the Kuwaiti side. Moreover, it was a further step likely to bolster relations between the Kuwaiti and the Russian peoples in the new era, which it is hoped will be an era of peace and stability in the Arab Gulf region.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah stressed that "these confirmations are very important for our peoples, governments, friends and foes," and that Kuwait is a small state in need of its friends who represent its real strength.

The Kuwaiti minister said that the visit covered both the political and military aspects, pointing out that the doors remain open for the economic aspect.

In his reference to Russia's ability to exert pressure on the Iraqi regime to compel the latter to release the Kuwaiti prisoners, Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah pointed out that Iraq has always avoided participating in the meetings to discuss issues relating to the border and prisoners, and therefore we need a Russian stance to support our just demands at the UN Security Council where these urgent issues—as far as Kuwait was concerned—are discussed. The minister expressed his conviction that friendly Russia will stand by the Kuwaiti right through demanding the implementation of the UN resolutions which have been and are being adopted by the Security Council. Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah called for the continuation of the blockade imposed on Iraq unless the Iraqi regime discharges totally its commitments resulting from the UN resolutions. He expected that Russia will bring pressure to bear on Baghdad by making Iraq understand firmly and clearly that Moscow stands by Kuwait at present and in future. [passage omitted]

Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah considered the signing of the military cooperation agreement with Russia as being a clear message to Iraq that the superpowers which have signed security treaties with Kuwait are committed to defending Kuwait in the event of any attack by Iraq. [passage omitted].

When speaking about some of the military aspects of the visit Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah said that the Kuwaiti side looked at several modern and developed Russian weapon systems. "We liked what we saw," he added. He pointed out that Kuwait will determine its requirements of such weapons in the light of the latter's suitability in Kuwaiti conditions, which involve high technology, manpower, and military strategy. He said that Kuwait needs high- technology weapons involving limited manpower as the Kuwaiti Army is small in numbers. [passage omitted]

Physical Training Chief Conveys Iranian Invitation

LD0112165193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Ghafordi-Fard, vice president in charge of the Physical Training Organization, met with the amir of Kuwait today and conveyed to him a verbal message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. During the meeting the amir of Kuwait was invited, on behalf of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to visit Iran.

Ghafordi-Fard also met with the Kuwaiti crown prince and convyed to him an oral message from the [Iranian first] vice president.

Mr. Ghafori-Fard, vice president in charge of the Physical Training Organization, is in Kuwait to take part in the Asian Olympics Council meeting which began this morning.

Saudi Arabia

Prince 'Abdallah Receives Somali Prime Minister

LD0112140193 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, this afternoon received at His Highness's office at the National Guard Headquarters His Excellency Omar Arteh Ghalib, the prime minister in Somalia.

United Arab Emirates

'Olive Branch' Extended to Iran on Islands

NC0212145193 Paris AFP in English 0822 GMT 2 Dec 93

[By Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 2 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Thursday marked its national day

with a military parade but also extended an olive branch to Iran to end their dispute over three strategic islands in the southern Gulf.

Just before tanks rolled onto Abu Dhabi's seaside and aircraft streaked overhead, President Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan invited Tehran to return to the negotiating table.

"The UAE has a sincere desire to enter a direct dialogue with the Islamic Republic of Iran on its occupation of the three UAE islands," he said in an address, which was read by Deputy Prime Minister Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan.

"We should resort to peaceful means to end this occupation and ensure the return of the three islands to the UAE's sovereignty in line with international laws, principles of good neighbourliness and mutual respect."

The dispute over the islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb had been dormant for two decades until it flared again in 1992, when the UAE accused Iran of annexing the Arab part of Abu Musa and expelling its residents.

Abu Musa, with a population of around 700 and an area of 25 square kilometres (10 square miles), has been shared by Iran and the UAE emirate of al-Shariqah under a British-brokered pact signed in 1971.

The two sides held negotiations in Abu Dhabi last year but they collapsed three days later after Iran refused to discuss the Tunbs on the grounds they belonged to Tehran.

Plans to resume the talks last September were called off by the UAE in protest at Iranian statements reasserting sovereignty on the islands.

The Gulf Cooperation Council secretary general, Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi, urged Iran on Tuesday to quit the islands or agree to international arbitration.

The dispute has hurt Tehran's strong relations with the UAE, where more than 100,000 Iranians live.

But trade has not been affected, with the Emirates remaining Iran's top Gulf economic partner. Its exports to Iran increased to 888 million dollars in 1992 from 730 million dollars in 1991.

Iran has offered to host talks but without pre-conditions and it insists on sovereignty of the Tunbs. The three islands control the Hormuz Straits entrance to the Gulf.

Shaykh Zayid, 76, also reiterated support for the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy agreement as a "first step towards a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

He hoped peace and stability would be established for the Middle East to "mobilize its enormous resources and potential to attain progress and prosperity and improve the living conditions of its people."

The UAE was set up on December 2, 1971 from the merger of seven Gulf emirates—Abu Dhabi, 'Ajman, Dubayy, Al Fujayrah, Ra's al- Khaymah, al-Shariqah and Umm al-Qaywayn—which were former British protectorates.

Shaykh Zayid, architect of the federation, the six other rulers and thousands of officials and citizens gathered at the palm-dotted seafront to watch the parade.

It included tanks, armoured vehicles, personnel carriers and missiles. Warships steamed in the southern Gulf waters while helicopters and fighters, including the Mirage 2000, put on a show overhead.

The UAE has more than 40,000 troops and 80 warplanes, including 36 French-built Mirage 2000, ordered in 1986 for 2.3 billion dollars.

Yemen

Interior Ministry Source Confirms Mahoney Release

U.S. Expresses 'Appreciation'

JN0212055993 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] The United States Embassy in Sanaa has expressed thanks and appreciation to brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, for the efforts he exerted to ensure the release of Haynes Mahoney, director of the U.S. Language Center in Sanaa [title as heard].

In a press release issued last night, the Embassy voiced satisfaction with the concern displayed by thousands of Yemenis, from the highest level in government to the ordinary citizen, over this incident. The press release adds that Haynes and his family, and members of the U.S. community are pleased with the warm and friendly feelings displayed by the Yemeni people.

A responsible source at the Interior Ministry told the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', that Haynes Mahoney, director of the U.S. Language Center in Sanaa, was released at 2200 yesterday. Mahoney had been held captive since last Thursday by a group from the [name indistinct] tribes in Ma'rib Governorate.

The source adds: Out of concern for the safety of the kidnapped individual and to ensure that he will not be harmed, the Ministry's leadership started intensive efforts in cooperation with a number of shaykhs, notables, and professional figures to ensure that he will be released safely.

The source conveyed a Ministry warning against such acts, which harm Yemen's reputation, conflict with our Yemeni people's values, disturb law and order, and threaten the country's public interest.

The source stressed that the Interior Ministry is determined to apply the law in this case, as well as other cases, and to take all the measures necessary to protect the foreigners, who are either residing in or visiting our country and guarantee their safe movement. The source urged all citizens to cooperate with the police and other competent agencies to prevent such acts, whose perpetrators will face tough prosecution, in order to preserve Yemen's international reputation and help the competent agencies fulfill their security and national duty against all security breaches and illegal acts.

Minister Pledges Legal Action

NC0112222193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2201 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Sanaa, 1 Dec (MENA)—Yemeni Interior Minister Yahya al- Mutawakkil has declared his ministry's intention to apply the law in the case involving the abduction of Haynes Mahoney, head of the U.S. Language Institute in Sanaa, and to take every measure to ensure the protection of foreigners living in Yemen or visiting that country and to defend their freedom of movement.

In a statement tonight, the minister said that his ministry, in cooperation with the governor of Ma'rib and other public figures, managed to secure the release of Mahoney at 2200 today.

The interior minister added that any legal measures have been postponed in order to guarantee the safety of Mahoney and his safe return to his family.

Minister al-Mutawakkil expressed his frustration with the incident, which "harmed the reputation of Yemen," and warned that such acts, which conflict with the values of the Yemeni people, undermine security and undercut the country's general interests.

Salih Regrets 'Deplorable Incident'

JN0212125293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, today received Haynes Mahoney, director of the U.S. Language Center in Sanaa, who was released last night after being held since last Thursday by a group of persons in the Ma'rib Governorate.

The brother chairman regretted this deplorable incident which, he said, has harmed the Yemeni people and conflicted with their values, ethics, and history.

For his part, Haynes Mahoney expressed thanks to the leadership, government, and security organs for their attention and efforts to secure his safe release.

The meeting was attended by brother Brigadier General Interior Minister Yahya al-Mutawakkil, Ma'rib Governor Colonel Yahya al-Shami, and U.S. Ambassador in Sanaa Arthur Hughes.

A responsible source at the Interior Ministry had stated that Haynes Mahoney was released last night.

Haynes Mahoney expressed thanks for the efforts that were made by the revolution, citizens, and political leadership under brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to secure his release.

In a brief statement to the Yemeni, Arab, and foreign news media at the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa today, the U.S. diplomat said that he is well and extremely happy for returning to his family and friends.

For his part, the head of Mahoney's office affirmed that no political motives were behind the kidnapping, and that the negotiations to secure Mahoney's release were carried out by the Yemeni Government.

House Committee Meets, Discusses 'Political Crisis'

JN0112192793 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] The House of Representatives is due to begin its first parliamentary meeting of the second session of its first term on Saturday morning under the chairmanship of House Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar. The House will discuss the report to be presented to it by the follow-up, fact-finding committee, which was formed to handle the current political crisis.

The House of Representatives committee held a meeting this morning under the chairmanship of brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, member of the house speaker's office. The meeting stressed the need to complete discussions with the prime minister and his deputies on the reasons behind the crisis and its repercussions, as well as ways of dealing with it. The committee also stressed the importance of stopping the repercussions of the crisis and playing an effective role in promoting dialogue among the coalition parties and benefiting from the dialogue, which was held by national forces and social and cultural figures to solve the crisis, as the homeland's security and stability are important to all citizens.

The committee also urged the committee tasked with preparing and formulating the general report, to carry out its mission during the remaining days of the week, because the report is to be submitted to the House of Representatives on Saturday morning to acquaint the House members with the results of the committee's sessions and its meetings with the prime minister, his deputies, the interior and information ministers, and the public prosecutor, who presented clarifications to the committee on security and information aspects pertaining to the current political crisis. The House of Representatives and its permanent and special committees are working to solve the crisis because the House represents the people, who elected it, and is the country's legislative authority.

Iraq, UN Sign 'Joint Report' on Holding Talks

JN0112134493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] New York, 1 Dec (INA)—Iraq and the United Nations signed a joint report yesterday. The UN Special Commission will present this report to the UN Security Council.

The report was signed for Iraq by Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization, and for the United Nations by UN Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus.

The Iraqi News Agency, INA, learned that the 14-page joint report calls for holding high-level talks between Iraq and the United Nations in the second half of January 1994.

Iraq and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] noted in the joint report that vital progress was achieved in each of the four rounds of talks that have been held in Baghdad and New York since last July.

The UN Special Commission stressed that Iraq has completely fulfilled its obligations in the missile and biological fields. Meanwhile, Iraq's chemical data constitutes a reliable account.

The UN Special Commission announced that the political and technical progress, which was achieved in the last round of talks and in the previous rounds, was clearly reflected in the operational field where Iraq cooperated with the Special Commission and the IAEA and provided them with the assistance they asked for.

The Special Commission said that all the measures it has recently carried out were successful, thanks to Iraq's cooperation. The Commission added that the information provided to it by Iraq is indicative of credibility. Hence, the Commission and the IAEA will do their utmost to accelerate the process of verification to ensure the attainment of a final conclusion in this regard at the earliest possible opportunity and as soon as possible.

The Special Commission further affirmed that the recent political and technical talks held in New York were useful, and that they did not face any difficulties. It also asserted that the need for verification will not delay the submission of any reports by the Commission and the IAEA per Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

The Commission and the IAEA welcomed Iraq's offer of placing its fixed-wing planes and helicopters [at their disposal] so they may use them rather than foreign planes. However, they said that further technical talks will be held in this regard in early 1994.

In the joint report, the Special Commission and the IAEA reiterated their interest in respecting Iraq's sovereignty, national security and dignity of the people and state of Iraq, and Iraq's right to scientific, industrial, and technological advancement in all fields not covered by UN Security Council Resolution 687.

Iraq on the one hand and the Special Commission and the IAEA on the other agreed that there will be a trimonthly assessment of the verification and monitoring process. The first assessment process will start in February 1994.

Once again, the Commission and the IAEA welcomed Iraq's acceptance of the obligations mentioned in Resolution 715. They said in the joint report that Iraq made a very important decision which has removed the last obstacle to Clause C of Resolution 687.

In a separate development, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and the accompanying delegation left New York to return to Iraq. Before leaving New York, 'Aziz had a 2-hour meeting with the U.S. Foreign Relations Council, which includes a number of U.S. politicians and businessmen who are interested in foreign relations affairs. The meeting took place at the request of the council.

Daily Criticizes Ekeus, U.S., UK Over Sanctions

JN0112160893 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 1, INA—Iraq has recently informed the UN Security Council that it accepts the long-term monitoring of its weapons providing that the United Nations would start lifting the more than three-year-old trade sanctions on Iraq, THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER [English language paper] newspaper said today.

Immediately after Iraq announced its agreement, Chairman of UN Security Council Special Commission in charge of destroying Iraq's weapon Rolf Ekeus told the press that the sanctions cannot be lifted before six months, a time needed by his commission to examine Iraq's sincerity of applying the long-term monitoring of its weapons.

Ekeus has denied Iraq's cooperation with the Commission over the last three years following cease-fire in the U.S-led war against Iraq.

It seems that Mr. Ekeus has forgotten that Iraq had agreed to install cameras for monitoring in two military sites near Baghdad. Iraq is also cooperating with the UN inspection teams which are stationed in Iraq and can visit any place in the country any time.

Therefore, there is no need for examining Iraq's good intentions when it agrees to a UN resolution as the country has allowed UN long-term monitoring and inspection teams to visit the country any time. Also Iraq's commitment to UN resolutions in the past should be a testimony to Iraq's sincerity towards implementing UN resolutions.

Six months before the Security Council would think of lifting the sanctions is a long period.

The United Nations, with pressure from the United States and Britain is trying to find excuses for prolonging the UN sanctions on Iraq.

Iraq's Deputy Premier Tariq 'Aziz is currently in New York. He is extending Iraq's hand to help the special Commission fulfill its duties in Iraq. He is also trying to explain Iraq's serious intentions to cooperate with the Security Council. 'Aziz was received by almost all envoys of permanent members of the council except the U.S. representative who refused to meet with him. Such behaviour by the U.S. envoy clearly reflects the U.S. Administration hatred towards the Iraqis and their intention to prolong the sanctions.

Despite Iraq's good intentions to implement the UN resolutions, the U.S. and its allies are trying to foil any attempt from the Security Council and the world community to lift the embargo.

The sanctions should be lifted immediately after Iraq's acceptance of long-term monitoring, and the Security Council should not wait for another six months to lift these sanctions.

Baghdad 'Not Interested' in Confrontations With UN

JN0112203493 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Nov 93 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] Television monitoring—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has affirmed that all the meetings held between Iraqi officials and UN representatives in Baghdad and New York have shown that Iraq is extending full cooperation to inspection teams and officials of the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] as well.

In a rare open dialogue with the "Evans and Novak" television program aired by the U.S. television network CNN last night, 'Aziz added that Iraq is not interested in confrontations with the United Nations, and that it is trying to establish good relations with the world organization to bring about an end to the embargo at the earliest possible opportunity.

The deputy prime minister went on to say: When we accepted Resolution 687, we were fully aware that Paragraph 10 of the aforementioned resolution concerns future and constant monitoring. It is clear that when you accept this resolution, you are well aware that such monitoring will take place.

The deputy prime minister noted that Resolution 687 does not address the issue of a test period, which reflects a political attitude dictated by pressures from the U.S. Administration. He added that the argument that there is a need for some time to test the extent of Iraq's compliance is debatable, since this testing has been in force for some time now. For, in the field of nuclear energy, it has been in force for several months. With respect to the field of missile industries, monitoring cameras were installed in October. Concerning the chemical weapons field, inspectors are present at chemical installations. They are working and monitoring. Consequently, the testing is already in place, 'Aziz argued.

In this television interview, Tariq 'Aziz indicated that Iraq is cooperating with the Special Commission and the IAEA to make their missions more practical. [passage omitted]

Cypriot Ship Delivers Cargo at al-Basrah

JN0112210893 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 1, INA—The cargoes of food, medicine, medical equipment, and spare parts, which will start to reach the Port of Umm Qasr in al-Basrah, are not humanitarian aid, but items purchased by Iraq, AL-JUMHURIYAH daily quoted a government source as saying.

The source added that Iraq will import food, grain, medicine, spare parts, seeds, pesticides, and materials for water treatment.

Head of al-Basrah Chamber of Commerce stated that merchants of al-Basrah were very happy with the Cypriot ship's cargo of sugar, saying that this will save them hard currency and will facilitate the transport process.

The staff of Iraqi Ports Department are currently involved in a round-the-clock effort to unload the 12,658 tonnes of sugar, and to deliver the cargo to the Ministry of Trade's warehouses.

According to the source, the silos and warehouses destroyed during the 1991 war have been reconstructed and equipped again.

Minister of Trade Muhammad Mahdi Salih told reporters that the U.S.-led aggression has destroyed Iraqi warehouses holding 855 million dollars worth of food, adding that each of the ministry's silos has a storage capacity of 150 to 180 tonnes.

The minister said that the resumption of links with the outside world will help facilitate the flow of commodities [words indistinct] into Iraq and reduce the cost of transport.

He added that commodities and goods will start to reach Iraq's ports directly, thus reducing the cost of transport, boost the national economy, and reactivate railway and land transport.

The ship is the first one to reach Iraqi ports, following a sea blockade of more than 40 months.

The captain of the ship said he was intercepted by the American Navy in the region of Bahraini and Kuwaiti

coasts, adding that American helicopters hovered over the ship in a provocative way.

The captain went on to say that the ship received a radio message from Kuwait, warning the ship that navigation routes to Umm Qasr are planted with mines and recommended it to go back.

Meanwhile, a source at the Ministry of Trade said the cargo of sugar will be distributed among three million families in accordance with the rationing cards.

The ten berths of Umm Qasr Port, which were severely damaged by U.S. and allied air strikes in 1991, have been reoperated by the al-Faruq Contracting Company of the Ministry of Housing and Construction.

The head of the company said the staff have so far completed some 70 percent of the repair work on the service facilities of Umm Qasr Port.

Kurdish Leaders Pay Brief Visit to Turkey

NC0112183693 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Jalal Talabani, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] secretary general, and brother Mas'ud Barzani, Kurdistan Democratic Party leader, paid a brief visit to Turkey yesterday. During their visit, they held talks with Turkish officials on bilateral ties between the Kurdistan region and Turkey. On their return, Talabani visited a PUK training center and was received by members of the center. He discussed the organizational affairs of the PUK.

Saddam Sends Cable Thanking Jordan's King Husayn

JN0212125993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0957 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of thanks to his brother King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in reply to the cable of condolences he sent on the death of late Hajj Khayrallah Talfah [Saddam Husayn's maternal uncle and father-in-law]. Following is the text:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful,

His Majesty Brother Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan: With great appreciation we received the cable of condolences which you kindly sent on the death of late Khayrallah Talfah. As I extend to your majesty my gratitude for your condolences and noble brotherly feelings, I beseech God, the all powerful, to grant you continued good health and to protect you and the fraternal Jordanian people from all harm. From God we come, and to him we return. Peace be upon you.

[signed] Your brother, Saddam Husayn

President Saddam Husayn, may God protect and preserve him, had received a cable of condolences from his brother His Majesty King Husayn on the death of late Hajj Khayrallah Talfah. Following is the text:

His Excellency Brother Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, may God preserve him: With sorrow and grief, we received the news of the death of the late Khayrallah Talfah. As I extend to your excellency my warmest condolences and sincerest sympathy, I beseech God Almighty to grant the deceased his mercy and to grant you patience. I also beseech him to preserve your excellency and to protect you and your fraternal people from all harm. From God we come, and to him we return.

[signed] Husayn

Rabin Addresses European Parliament

LD0112183393 Ecully Euronews Television Network in English 1507 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the European Parliament in Brussels on 1 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] We are very sensible to our security, not by sheer coincidence. I reminded you of the long Jewish history. We are proud that we have never asked any country to have a defense pact with us; we have never asked any foreign soldier to shed one drop of his blood for the defense of Israel. [passage omitted] It's our responsibility. We can do it; we don't want to drag others to regional wars. [passage omitted] Therefore for us, peace means security.

I have said to the Israeli people, once the Jewish people, the Zionist movement, decided to return to Zion to establish a Jewish state in the only place where a Jewish state can be built, in the land of Israel, we also decided who will be our neighbors—100, 120 million peoples of the Arab countries; additional 100, 150 million Muslims. I wish that we had as partners some of your countries, some of your peoples. But in this case you can't choose your neighbors.

Second, I said to the people of Israel: We have only two ways to live with our neighbors, either by trying to bring about peace that will give us security, or to live always under threat of wars, violence and terror. I prefer to take calculated risks for the sake of peace.

I said also that I would prefer to have to peace with countries that have tradition of democracy, values of democracies, but unfortunately our neighbors are either progressive authoritarian regimes, authoritarian regimes and totalitarian regimes. If we will have to wait till democracy will prevail there, establish and prevail, we might have to wait additional 100 years till peace will be reached if the condition is to make it with only democratic countries. Therefore, it's not up to us to judge the way of life in every neighboring Arab country or people. We have to try to achieve peace with them as they are, bearing in mind the question marks, keeping a margin of safety for the security of Israel.

This is the way that I see it and I have added: There is no need to make peace with friends. Peace you make with enemies, sometimes very bitter enemies. These are the realities in the region. And since I believe in what I have said, it is preferable to take risks, calculated ones, for peace. And peace you make with bitter enemies, this guided our policy. I knew that for the achievement of peace, you have to make compromises. [passage omitted]

We live in a very sensitive period, a period in which both sides have to have strong nerves to overcome the obstacles, to focus on completion of the negotiations. And let's not forget: Six months were given in accordance to the DOP [Declaration of Principles] for the implementation of the first phase, Gaza-Jericho phase, two months for the negotiations, four months for the implementation. I wouldn't see any major crisis if to reach good agreement, agreement that will clarify the road for the implementation, that will leave no misunderstanding. [sentence as heard]

Declaration of Principles can be general, but translation of these principles to the ground, to the communication, to the way of life, to the responsibilities of the Palestinian police, to the Israeli police and military units, to the settlements, to the civilians, have to be very clear, otherwise the friction will lead a disaster.

Therefore, we should focus today—there were also meetings in Paris of the Palestinian-Israeli economic committee—to find in a macro way what will be the relations between the two entities. (?Clause) open. We don't like to patronize or to impose. We would like to negotiate as partners to the same endeavor. [passage omitted]

We would like to see continuation of the negotiations with the other Arab countries, with Jordan. I believe there is no major obstacle to bring about the solution of the problems between Jordan and Israel. Especially now that we have started with the Palestinians. There is no territorial problem between us and Lebanon. We all recognize the international boundary. The only question is security. To see a government in Lebanon that controls its own territories. I hope that we will see better signs on the part of the leadership of Syria. I don't expect that anyone will repeat what President Sadat did. But we are a democracy. We have to convince the people that the other side, one of the partners, really wants peace, as we have to show it. We expect the other side to show it. I believe that we face great opportunities. We expect support to the peace process (?at your cities). To forget resolutions of the past, of the eighties, of the... [pauses] except the United Nations Security Council resolutions. To move into the new realities, not to be bound by any other resolution, by any group of countries or individual countries. To support the present one. If you ask me—and by that I will conclude my remarks—what Israel expects of Europe. First and foremost to support the peace process, to understand that the main responsibility for the achievement of peace lies too with the partners to the present conflict, the partners to the conflict must be the main partners for the peacemaking process.

Second, we more than welcome the readiness of Europe in the context of the international effort to support financially the Palestinians in a positive, constructive way through projects of housing infrastructure, job creation, education, once the process of agreement will be reached and even today.

We always welcomed assistance to the Palestinians in the Territories. (?It should) be done directly and many European countries contributed here and there. But in the context of the peace effort a major effort has to be done.

And thirdly, we don't ask any financial assistance from Europe. We get it from other sources. What we expect Europe to understand is that Israel takes risks and the people of Israel expect also to see that as a result of the peace efforts it will be made possible for them to advance, to strengthen our economy to have our society more progressive, to give a refuge to Jews who are oppressed, who are persecuted, would it be in the Soviet Union or what used to be the Soviet Union, would it be in Syria or in Yemen. Their place, their home, is in Israel, the Jewish state. [passage omitted]

We would like to have the opportunity to be part—not member, associates—with the European Community. I don't want to give figures, but no doubt that we are in the red in the trade balance between our two countries, and very much so. We would like—I hope after meeting with the leadership of France, Italy, Belgium, tomorrow Germany and Britain and the leadership of this honorable and important parliament, that on 6 December or 7 the council will give a mandate to renegotiate the agreement of 1975. We want your support to the peace, your understanding, your readiness to translate your understanding, also to something which is only natural—to give us a chance. Not more than that, not more than that. Financially, support the Palestinians.

Israel are looking to Europe as the state of the Jewish people that for hundreds if not thousands of years, the majority of it lived in European countries. Israel looks at Europe as the cradle of democracy and Western civilization. Israel looks at Europe with the hope of supporting, assisting the peace and first and foremost the parties in the Middle East that are engaged in real, meaningful peacemaking and are committed to make peace. This is our hope; this is our expectation from you, the representatives of the European countries, European peoples who are members in the European community. Thank you very much.

U.S. Defense Under Secretary on NPT, Iran

TA0212151593 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Announcer-read introduction with recorded interview by station military commentator]

[Text] The United States may carry out a preemptive strike against Iran if the latter continues its efforts to acquire nuclear weapons. This observation by U.S. Under Secretary of Defense Frank Wisner were made in an interview with our correspondent. He called on Israel to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] as a country that does not possess such weapons.

The under secretary further said that the Pentagon would not oppose a decision to free Jonathan Pollard if such a decision were to be made by the President. Wisner, who is about to wind up his visit to Israel, was interviewed by our military commentator Amir Oren.

[Begin recording, in English] [Wisner] Well, the United States has never minced its words, and on this subject we want Israel to be a party to the NPT. We've consistently urged that on you as we approach the time in which the NPT will be extended. It's a time we would suggest that you reflect on your national interests and decide how best to proceed.

[Oren] But what would such a signature mean in practical terms for Israel, if it really does have what others allege it to have?

[Wisner] The only way to subscribe, or be part of the NPT, is to go for a non-weapon state, a non-weapon state relationship.

[Oren] Does the United States intend to keep Israel a pace ahead of the Saudis, the Egyptians?

[Wisner] The threat to this country begins to change. It isn't from the near neighbors who have presented the principal problems of recent years, but it's to those who lie on the other side of the Persian Gulf, or border on the Shatt al-'Arab—Iraq and Iran, to be specific.

[Oren] So the removal of Saddam Husayn would be a positive development.

[Wisner] Very frankly, I see no way for Iraq to find her footing again in the international community with the kind of regime that she has in place today.

[Oren] How far ahead in the nuclear field is Iran now?

[Wisner] We are quite convinced that they are taking steps. The options in dealing with it are of course many, and preemption is something that one never rules out, but is really quite far down the road.

[Oren] Does your government have any knowledge, and could it offer any help to the Israeli Government regarding the whereabouts of Captain Ron Arad?

[Wisner] If we come on anything, we will of course make it available to your government without any hesitation, but unfortunately I don't have anything that I can report of positive news at this point. [end recording]

Official Sees Syria as 2d Stage in Peace Process

NC0212115393 Paris AFP in English 1117 GMT 2 Dec 93

[By Sammy Ketz]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, Dec 2 (AFP)—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher embarks on a new Middle East tour on Friday seeking to bring Syria back into the frame, but will find Israel committed first to implementing the PLO autonomy deal.

"The United States are pushing us to negotiate straight away with Syria and telling us there will be no real peace without Syria," a senior foreign ministry official told AFP.

"But for the time being they must understand the difficulties we are meeting in implementing the agreement with the PLO.

"We will insist on this and so we are not expecting a breakthrough during this visit," the official said.

Under the September 13 agreement Israeli troops are to start withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho on December 13, but negotiations have stumbled over the pullout plan, the size of the autonomous area in Jericho, the control of the borders and the release of Palestinian prisoners.

The bilateral talks with Damascus, which began in October 1991, have been deadlocked since the agreement was signed in Washington.

Damascus has repeatedly criticized the Palestine Liberation Organization's separate deal with Israel and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has openly admitted Syria is no longer a priority.

"We should not expect an agreement with Syria from this visit," one of Rabin's advisers said.

A foreign ministry official commented: "The aim of the trip is to get the negotiations with Damascus back on track and to resume the negotiations in Washington with our Arab neighbours." [passage omitted]

Ambassador Addresses UN Debate on Middle East

TA0212060993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Israel's ambassador to the United Nations has called on the leaders of Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan to follow in the footsteps of Egypt and the PLO and to meet with Israeli officials to sign a peace treaty. Ambassador Ya'aqobi made his call before the United Nations at the opening of a debate on the Middle East. From New York, Judy Lessing:

[Begin recording] [Lessing] Ambassador Ya'aqobi stressed the positive side of the political breakthroughs, but he says there is much work to do.

[Ya'aqobi] The peace process would be greatly helped by a summit in Damascus or Jerusalem between President al-Asad of Syria and Prime Minister Rabin of Israel. Let us create another psychological and political breakthrough, as Egyptian President al-Sadat did when he came to Jerusalem in November 1977.

[Lessing] Israel's ambassador also called for a secure border with Lebanon and for King Husayn to sign a peace treaty. He said threats to peace will grow if progress is not made quickly.

[Ya'aqobi] I want to express my regrets over the expressions of violence, the many injuries and loss of human life, and over the absence of restraint and tolerance, despite the opening of new horizons before us all. I believe that the difficult situation will pass. I believe that all sides know that we have crossed the point of no return on our way to a new era of peace, security, and economic and social progress.

[Lessing] Ambassador Ya'aqobi told the United Nations that Israel and the Palestinians have chosen their road to peace, and the United Nations should support them.

[Ya'aqobi] It is time to abandon obsolete, anachronistic resolutions that do not reflect the new realities in the Middle East. Resolutions wielded as political weapons at the height of the Arab-Israeli conflict have no place in this era of negotiations and reconciliation. I am pleased that a new resolution was tabled yesterday by the United States, Russia, and Norway supporting the peace process and its achievements and calling for international assistance, regional cooperation, and a comprehensive peace.

[Lessing] Ambassador Ya'aqobi called for an end to the Arab economic boycott and for work towards a time when the whole region prospers from peace. He said Israel and the Palestinians face opposition, but that those who look to the future will prevail over those who are trapped in the past. [end recording]

Fatah Hawks Detainee Released by Army

TA0112205493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] The Gaza Strip security forces today released Isma'il Abu-Qumsan, a Fatah Hawks member who was detained carrying an M-16 rifle two weeks ago. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Abu-Qumsan was released in the custody of Ihab al-Ashkar, one of the Fatah leaders in the territories.

The release was apparently part of the agreement achieved in yesterday's meeting between Fatah personnel and Major General Matan Vilna'i.

Our correspondent notes that Abu-Qumsan was in the company of a member of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organization, Ahmad Hasanat, when he was detained, but the latter remains in prison.

Soldier Shoots 2 Arabs in Jabalyah

TA0212112893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Two residents of the Jabalyah refugee camp have been shot by an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier. The soldier reported that shots were fired at him from a vehicle in which the two were traveling, and he returned fire. No firearms were found in the vehicle. The two were treated and were transferred to a Gaza hospital in serious condition.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the curfew on the al-Shati' refugee camp and the al-Shaykh Radwan

neighborhood continues. IDF patrols were stoned in several locations in the Gaza Strip, and tires were burned.

Darawshah on Situation in Territories, Prisoners

NC0212090693 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Telephone interview with 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, Knesset member and leader of Israel's Arab Democratic Party, in Jericho, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Jundi] What is your assessment of the current situation in the occupied Palestinian territories?

[Darawshah] The Palestinians in the occupied territories are seething, particularly in Gaza, Ramallah, and al-Birah. There is tension in the ranks of the Jewish settlers in the wake of the death of a young Jewish woman. These violent acts, in which some Palestinian citizens and an Israeli citizen lost their lives, and the escalating suppression during which several Palestinians were martyred and more than 80 were wounded yesterday, occurred against a background of a certain Palestinian bitterness and frustration. The Palestinians in the occupied territories do not sense that the Israeli-Palestinian agreement is actually being implemented.

[Al-Jundi] Are you specifically referring to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that the date set by the agreement for beginning the withdrawal is not sacred scripture?

[Darawshah] Yes, this is a serious remark that has negative implications. Even if Yitzhaq Rabin was only putting pressure on the PLO to get more concessions, he should have refrained from making such a statement. He should have fully committed himself to implement the Declaration of Principles, beginning on the morning of 14 December. The Arab Democratic Party's parliamentary bloc met with the prime minister. We urged him to implement the agreement, not to extend the timetable because that would escalate the violence, heighten Palestinian frustration, and undermine the position of the PLO and Palestinian moderates. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Darawshah, the Israeli prime minister's adviser visited Tunis in the past two days and met 'Arafat. At the same time, Yitzhaq Rabin urged Jewish settlers to exercise self-restraint in the next stage. Do you believe that this represents an Israeli move to calm the situation before 13 December?

[Darawshah] This activity is coupled with other activity inside the occupied territories. Israeli military commanders and Palestinian commanders have held meetings. The dispatch of two envoys by the Israeli prime minister, his personal adviser Jacques Neriya, and Gel'ad, the judiciary adviser, to meet with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is an attempt to surmount difficulties and proceed with the peace process. I have learned that their mission is connected with the basic Palestinian demand to release all Palestinian security detainees, including those captured during the intifadah and other prisoners. Apparently there have been positive signs that this mission will succeed. The PLO has supplied the two Israeli envoys with some information about several missing Israeli soldiers. I also learned that in return, the Israeli Government will pledge to release all Palestinian prisoners according to an agreed-upon timetable. [passage omitted]

Attorney General: Settlers Organization 'Illegal'

TA0112165293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir asserts that the Hashomer organization planned by the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, which is to guard Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlements and roads, is illegal. The attorney general instructed the chief of staff and the Israel Police chief to use every means at their disposal to prevent the establishment of this organization.

Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the attorney general's directive came in the wake of an appeal from Dedi Zucker, chairman of the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee.

The attorney general writes that the responsibility for security in all parts of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza lies with the Government of Israel, the security forces, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and Israel Police, while a private organization is likely to cause a deterioration in the security situation to the point of endangering human life and exacerbate the already tense relations between the Jewish settlers and the other inhabitants of the area.

Police Chief: Legality Not Determined

TA0212120693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Report by Hadar Vismonsky]

[Excerpt] The first reaction to the attorney general's pronouncement that the Hashomer settlers organization is illegal came today from Police Commissioner Rafi Peled, who said we must wait and see how the organization acts before we can determine its legality. The commissioner's statement contradicts the pronouncement of Attorney General Ben-Ya'ir, who ordered that every step necessary be taken to prevent the establishment of the Hashomer organization in the territories. Here is what Police Commissioner Peled said:

[Begin Peled recording] The organization has not been outlawed, because it does not exist as yet. I sincerely hope that if and when the organization is established, it will operate within the law. From my talks with settlement leaders, I understood that they are planning to operate within the law governing guard activities. As long as it remains a positive, law-abiding organization,

we will coordinate with it and assist it. If the organization does not act in accordance with the law, we will deal with it as we would with any other lawbreaker. [end recording]

Peled addressed the angry remarks of many right-wing Knesset members who complained that with only 11 days to go before the target date for the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, security arrangements in the territories remain highly unclear. The commissioner said the Israel Police will be able to organize for the implementation of the agreement within 10 days, if required to do so. [passage omitted]

Settlers Demonstrate Over Killing in 20 Locations

TA0112204893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Hundreds of right-wing supporters have been staging demonstrations tonight, protesting the al-Birah terrorist attack. The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza spread the demonstrators over some 20 locations throughout the country.

The settlers are planning to block the central traffic axes in the territories between 0545 [0345 GMT] and 0715 [0545 GMT] tomorrow morning.

'Hundreds' Block Roads

TA0212053293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Yitzhaq Weinstock, 19, of Alon Shvut, who was wounded in yesterday's attack near al-Birah, has died. His funeral will leave Alon Shvut at noon for the 'Etzyon Bloc cemetery. In Jerusalem, Shalva Ozana, who was murdered in the same attack, was buried last night.

Settlers are blocking several main roads and junctions in Judaea and Samaria to protest the al-Birah attack. Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman reports that the Jerusalem-Hebron road has been blocked near the 'Etzyon Bloc junction. Residents of Jerusalem's Gilo neighborhood are blocking the Gilo junction near the northern entrance to Bethlehem. Hundreds of residents of Psagot, Bet El, and 'Ofra are blocking the Jerusalem-Nabulus road near the site of the attack. The trans-Samaria highway has also been blocked. Our correspondent reports that the military commander has declared the 'Etzyon Bloc junction a closed military area to journalists. Large traffic jams have formed at most of the locations. Settlement leaders have been ordered to lift the blockades within 15 minutes.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 2 December reports that "the settlers have started reopening the blocked roads."]

Settlers To Set Up Settlement

TA0212113893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] The funeral of Yitzhaq Weinstock, who died last night of wounds sustained in yesterday's al-Birah attack, is now taking place at Alon Shvut. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that earlier today, residents of Alon Shvut fenced in a six-dunam area adjacent to the settlement, where they plan to set up a small settlement named after Weinstock. The move is part of the effort by the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to set up 130 small settlements as quickly as possible. Our correspondent notes that the fencing in of the area was not coordinated with the Army.

Minister on Expanding Exports, Regional Setup

TA0112140593 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Dec 93 p 7

[ITIM report]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish presented the main outlines of his ministry's plans for 1944 at a news conference at Tel Aviv's Bet Sokolov.

Harish said that the main aim is to expand exports. In addition to the possibilities opened by Russia and the other CIS member states, China, and India, there will also be trade ties with Vietnam and Indonesia.

The ministry is not neglecting Europe, the United States, and Japan, Harish said. He noted that trade agreements with EC states will be reached. "Europe is our toughest client, but there has also been a turning point there." He said Daimler-Benz is opening an office in Israel and will study the possibilities of investing here, while U.S. firms are also interested in investing in Israel. Contacts have started with Hewlett Packard on a large investment in hi-tech with the Technion Institute of Technology, and Apple representatives will arrive next week.

Harish said that he is busy trying to expand trade ties with the United States, Japan, China, France, Germany, and Spain.

An economic recovery is expected in the United States, which will improve our export chances, he said, and there will be contacts with representatives of large corporations and governors.

The minister said that Israeli exports to Japan will grow. "Fifteen of our firms will penetrate the Japanese market in return for imports from Japan." His ministry has appointed a Japanese citizen to represent Israeli interests in Tokyo. Large Israeli investments are also expected in China, Harish said.

In reference to economic possibilities in the wake of the peace process, Harish said: "I do not foresee any major achievements for Israel in the economic field in either the autonomy or in Arab states, and I warn against euphoria. Their ability to absorb is still very limited." Harish said that the best development would be a regional economic-trade setup in the Middle East, modeled on NAFTA in North America.

"Businessmen and representatives of Arab governments, including Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, have started arriving here. We have tightened trade relations with Egypt. They have come here mainly because of the chances of setting up an economic bloc. Direct negotiations between states cannot achieve what the setting up of a large regional arrangement can achieve, and they understand that. [passage omitted]

Royal Decree Accepts Ministers' Resignations

JN0112214093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] A royal decree has been issued accepting the resignation of Ratib al-Wazani, minister of justice; Dr. Bassam al-Sakit, minister of industry and commerce; Dr. Mahmud al-Samrah, minister of culture; Bassam Qaqish, minister of water and irrigation; Engineer Khalaf al-Hawwari, minister of public works and housing; Salman al- Tarawinah, minister of transport; Dr. Marwan Rasim Kamal, minister of agriculture.

Cabinet Reshuffled 1 Dec

JN0112183093 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Royal decree issued by Jordan's King Husayn in Amman on 1 December—read by announcer]

[Text] We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with Article 35 of the Constitution, and based on a recommendation by the prime minister, order the following:

—Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar shall be appointed deputy primer minister.
—Dr. Sa'id al-Tall shall be appointed deputy prime minister and minister of higher education.
—Tahir Hikmat shall be appointed minister of justice.
—Dr. Jawad al-'Anani shall be appointed minister of information and minister of state for cabinet affairs.
—Dr. Hisham al-Khatib shall be appointed minister of water and irrigation.
—Ahmad al-'Aqayilah shall be appointed minister of municipal and rural affairs and environment.
—Dr. Muhammad Mahdi al-Farhan shall be appointed minister of agriculture.
—Dr. Khalid al-'Umari shall be appointed minister of education.
—Adib Halasah shall be appointed minister of transport.
—Dr. Fawwaz Abu-al-Ghanam shall be appointed minister of state.
—Dr. Amin Mahmud shall be appointed minister of culture.
—Dr. Rima Khalaf shall be appointed minister of industry and trade.
—'Adil Irshayd shall be appointed minister of state.
—Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Nusur shall be appointed minister of public works and housing.

Issued at our Basman Palace in Amman, 18 Jumada al-Akhirah 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 1 December 1993.

Editorial on 'Awesome' Tasks

JN0212121693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2-3 Dec 93 p 4

[Editorial: "No Deputies, Same Chance"]

[Text] As expected the new government of Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali broke old traditions and excluded deputies from its ranks. Previous governments had been a composite of members of the Lower House of Parliament and politicians and technocrats, but no effort was made this time to have that sort of political mix.

There are obviously advantages and disadvantages to incoporating members of the legislature in the executive branch. In strict terms, the separation of the three branches of government has always been the mainstay of some well-established democracies, like the U.S. On the other hand, some other parliamentary democracies have reconciled themselves to the principle of forming governments by the party that achieves the highest score during national elections.

In Jordan, where it is not necessary to appoint a prime minister from the largest political party in Parliament, it would seem acceptable to deviate from the traditional parliamentary democratic practices since the rationale behind the formation of cabinets from parliamentarians is predicted on the rule of thumb that political parties that win general elections would be called upon to form a Cabinet. This not being the case in Jordan, it would not seem to be anathema to democracy to give all Cabinet portfolios to non- parliamentarians.

Still more important that the inclusion or the exclusion of parliamentarians from the Cabinet is the task that lies ahead of the newly formed government. The agenda of the executive branch is heavily laden with thorny issues ranging from the peace process and the prospects of a peace accord with Israel to pressing local subjects that are closer to the heart and attention of Jordanians. The region is on the threshold of new developments on every conceivable level that call for vision and political will. The team of ministers that will normally be assembled for this purpose would have more than their usual share of responsibility. These awesome burdens awaiting the Cabinet members would require political heavy weights rather than anybody else.

Yet it remains to be seen whether the new Cabinet would prove to be fully effective. Meanwhile we have to give them the benefit of the doubt and extend every possible support, including criticism, to enable them to do their job. There will come a day when a broader based government may need to be formed since the decisions that awaits the country would call for a national coalition government that enjoys wide grassroots support. For now, however, the reshuffled government of Dr. al-Majali deserves its chance.

King Husayn Addresses Armed Forces Graduates

JN0112153693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Speech by King Husayn of Jordan at the graduation ceremony of the 34th class of the Royal Command and Staff College in Amman on 1 December—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. May God's peace and blessings be upon the honest Arab Hashemite prophet.

Brother graduate officers; esteemed audience: May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. It is extremely satisfying, heartening, and fulfilling for me to meet you every year at this exceptional military institution, which has always been an inexhaustible source of contributions, providing our valiant Armed Forces and other fraternal Arab armies with very efficient military expertise and skilled personnel in various military fields.

It is extremely pleasing for Jordan that after having completed your graduation requirements successfully and competently, and after having shown a sense of responsibility, as well as a determination to keep the trust placed in you, you now belong to that elite group forging ahead and taking its place in leading positions to uphold banners in defense of the homeland's security and safety.

An additional reason for the affection I hold for this institute is that I every year, when I attend the graduation ceremony of a new batch of officers, I always see among the graduates an elite group of fraternal Arabs and friends. This elite group has chosen to be among us in appreciation of this institute and our valiant Armed Forces. For they have confidence in the high level of training and instruction provided at our military institutes. Likewise, they are well aware that these institutes are catching up with the most up-to-date instruction methods.

While congratulating you on the success and distinction you have achieved, and on the new knowledge and multifaceted expertise you have obtained, I would like to extend my great thanks to those working at this college, be they instructors or administrative personnel. I appreciate the fruitful efforts they have been making, the continuous diligence they have shown, as well as their superb performance.

Brother citizens: On a similar occasion last year, I addressed you, underscoring a host of issues that have remained vivid and very much alive. The first is that this Muhammadan Arab Army is an example in courage, sacrifice, discipline, and commitment to the code of honorable soldiership. This army is the offspring of the platoons of the Great Arab Revolt. It carries its banners. It is the continuation of its message and principles.

The second is that we are still committed to the principles cherished by our fathers and forefathers, the soldiers of the Arab Revolt led by Husayn Bin-'Ali, with regard to the nation's freedom, independence, and unity. In our democratic march, which is committed to freedom, respect for human rights, pluralism, and justice, we are epitomizing this commitment, which is honored by Jordanians of all origins and ancestral lineage. We are doing this to uphold the message of this revolt and its great principles, which we are now spreading among the nation. We are advocating unity, freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights.

The third is that the world has changed. Recent years have witnessed the downfall of regimes, the fragmentation of countries, civil wars, and hunger. We here have seen that the world is witnessing major changes on the political, economic, social, and intellectual levels. Our nation must absorb these changes and deal with them realistically and in a way that is in line with its potential and goals and with its people's aspirations and hopes for full liberation from backwardness, coercion, and deprivation.

Proceeding from this reality, our nation will continue to be unable to face the challenges these changes are imposing if its leaders do not seek to rebuild the new Arab order with a new spirit that overcomes all the differences, divisions, and estrangement that has marred their relations. Moreover, everyone must overcome the consequences of the Gulf crisis in terms of wounds, collapse, and cracks in the Arab order. This can only be done if everyone adopts a spirit of forgiveness and brotherhood and thinks about the challenges of the future which force us to be united. This is if we want a decent position for our nation in this new era.

Graduate officers and brother citizens: Our stand toward the Palestinian issue remains firm and unshakable based on the demand to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy. These are represented by UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the land-for-peace principle, and the Palestinians' right to self-determination on their national soil within a just, durable, and comprehensive peace that is acceptable to future generations and will be maintained and defended by them. During the Rabat conference held in 1974, we found ourselves faced with an Arab demand and a Palestinian insistence to recognize the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We responded to this in a reaffirmation of the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking. This commitment has not changed.

Moreover, as you know, there was the legal and administrative disengagement in the West Bank. Since this is a Jordanian- Palestinian issue, the results of this disengagement should not be endorsed in favor of any other party. Furthermore, we provided the canopy of a joint delegation to enable the Palestinian brothers to attend the peace negotiations in Madrid, supporting the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking and the sole, legitimate representative, the PLO.

When the Palestinian leadership chose to reach a declaration of principles and a mutual recognition with Israel on 13 September 1993, we declared our support for what the Palestinians had chosen for themselves, hoping that

what they reached would be the beginning of a just and honorable solution to the Palestine question.

Regarding Jerusalem, whose walls and gates are still scented with the blood of the martyrs of our Jordanian Armed Forces near the tomb of al-Husayn Bin-'Ali and the blood of 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn in the yard of al-Aqsa Mosque, we have clearly said that the relationship of the Hashemites with holy Jerusalem is historic and religious, that our commitment toward it is one that is supported by history and martyrdom, and that we will remain committed to it and its sanctities by taking care of it, building it, and denying and any sovereignty over it except that of Almighty God. [applause]

We have called for the formation of a venerable nonpolitical and Islamic commission that will represent the seven Islamic sects and will, with our full support, be tasked with taking care of Islamic holy places. We have also called for a comprehensive dialogue among the followers of the three religions—a dialogue that will be based on the fact that Jerusalem is a symbol of peace, an essence of faith, and an object of love by believers in God, the followers of the three religions and the sons of Abraham, peace be upon him. These are the pillars and constant principles of our position from which we proceed, to which we are committed, and through which we define our vision.

Brother citizens: After four decades of continuous and persistent efforts, we still continue our march according to the Hashemite policy and in the spirit on which Jordan was founded. Faith in the Greater Arab Revolt has remained an objective, the nation's unity has remained a goal, shura and democracy have remained a policy, and freedom, pride, and man's dignity have remained a springboard. We are content that we have known the reality of this Arab state in terms of spirit and policy and this Jordanian State in terms of construction and resolution. We have known it in Islam as a faith, in our mind as a basis, in thought and freedom as a climate, in education as a rule, in agriculture as an honor, in soldiering as a martyrdom, in politics as a credibility, and in culture as a vast space, genuineness, and a way of living.

While we were at the peak of this great democratic change, we said that we are with those who die and make their bodies a bridge for Jordan to cross to its freedom, strength, and prosperity and that we are against those who want this change to be a bridge for them to cross to minor personal goals and benefits.

We have always been the soldiers of the Great Arab Revolt, the carriers of its banner, and its swords which have always been brandished. We call on all Arab brothers to join us to work shoulder to shoulder with sincerity to underscore everyone's role and civilized duty to embody the conscience and civilization of the nation.

As I appreciate the distinguished performance and major achievements of some of our institutions, we first remember our valiant Armed Forces, the Arab Army, which has always been the nation's pride, hope, and invulnerable shield. The brave men have always been the vanguards and symbol of courage, sacrifice, and discipline. They have always been capable of developing, promoting their skills, and making achievements. They carried out many great tasks with minimum abilities. It suffices to say that for more than half a century they have been stationed in the most dangerous position in the heart of the Arab homeland, defending it and its people's right to life, to justice, and to well-being in the face of the most severe challenges. Their determination has never weakened and they have never given in. It suffices to recall their heroic and epic-like sacrifices in Jerusalem, al-Latrun, Hebron, al- Karamah, and in other places of honor and sacrifice. They have all our appreciation and pride. [applause] We also send the greetings of the kinfolk and homeland to those conveying the shining image of Jordan throughout the world through their presence in the forces safeguarding world peace and security in Cambodia, Angola, Croatia, and in other places in the world.

Dear brothers: This is our view and course. Let the free and honest people who believe in this nation, in this homeland's message, and in the principles of the Great Arab Revolt continue to build the new Jordan; the Arab, unifying, and democratic Jordan; Jordan, the oasis of freedom and the bastion of free men who believe in human rights—a bastion for this nation's honest men, thinkers, and skilled people who believe in its message and great cultural role. Let Amman become the capital of the deep-rooted Arab culture, which is open to other nation's cultures and experiences. Let Jordan be the base of Arab unity plan. We, the descendants of the prophet, and the Jordanians, the inheritors of the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and the carriers of its message, must endeavor to close Arab ranks, and we are part of them. We are advocates of the nation's unity, integration, and glory. We are the makers of its future. Let us proceed on this path armed with faith, determination, enlightenment, science, and clear vision, looking at a new shining future. And tomorrow is not far away.

I renew my congratulations and greetings, asking God to grant us success for the well-being of the homeland and the nation. May God preserve you. God's peace, mercy, and blessing be upon you. [applause]

Dudin Discusses Compensation for Refugee Burden

JN0212102993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2-3 Dec 93 p 10

[By P. V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Jordan's quest for compensation for hosting Palestinian refugees and displaced persons bears no prejudice on the rights of the individual refugee or displaced person, the Kingdom's top negotiator on refugee affairs said Wednesday.

By including this issue as a major topic for negotiations in the Sept. 14 agenda for peace talks that Jordan signed with Israel, the Kingdom has turned a major turning point, said Marwan Dudin, who also heads Jordan's team to talks on regional economic cooperation.

Mr. Dudin, considered a veteran in Palestinian affairs in view of his close involvement with the occupied territories in his capacity as member of the cabinet in 1980s, said that Israel has not been "showing its clear intentions" during the past several rounds of talks on refugees in the multilateral phase of the peace process.

"We always got a feeling that Israel is taking us through circles, without committing itself into serious discussion on the subject," said Dr. Dudin.

By including the issue as a negotiating point in the common agenda, Jordan's hand is strengthened on several counts, he said.

These included, he said, Israel's acceptance of the fact that the problem exists and needs to be resolved and the freedom that has been given to Jordan to raise the issue with no overlappings from other spheres of the broader issue of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons hosted by other Arab countries.

"Jordan's demand is for compensation from Israel for hosting the 1.7 million to 1.8 million Palestinian refugees and displaced persons who now live in Jordanian territory," said Dr. Dudin.

"The demand for compensation to the state does not prejudice or has any bearing on the individual right of the refugee or displaced person to claim his or her right to return or to receive compensation," he added.

By the same token, Jordan will not be negotiating on behalf of any refugee or displaced person living outside its territory—meaning Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and other countries where they live—in the bilateral negotiations with Israel, he explained.

At the same time, the Kingdom will be pressing for the rights of the refugees and displaced mesons in the multilateral phase as part of the Madrid formula that launched the Middle East peace process in the Spanish capital in October 1991.

Dr. Dudin noted that Israel was in no position to bring up with Jordan its usual argument that the question of compensation should take into consideration Jews who were displaced from Arab countries when Israel was created in 1948.

"First of all, Jordan has no record of ever expelling a Jew, before or after the creation of Israel," said Dr. Dudin.

In a broader context, he rejected the Israeli argument that Jews who left Arab countries to live in the Jewish state also deserved compensation. "They did not leave the concerned countries in a state of war," he said. "Israel, by virtue of its claim as the Jewish state, was luring them, and they left the Arab countries as a matter of their own choice."

"That is a far cry from the circumstances that Palestinians left their homes in Jaffa and Haifa and other cities and towns in Palestine," he pointed out.

Within the Jordanian context, he said, "the refugees and displaced persons ended up in Jordan as a result of the creation of the state of Israel," and, as such, the Jewish state bears a direct responsibility to compensate Jordan for having hosted them.

Dr. Dudin said close to one million of the 1.8 million Palestinian refugees and displaced persons living in Jordan were classified as 1948 refugees. Of the 700,000 to 800,000 others, half of them were also "refugees" since they were already displaced from their homes in Palestine in 1948 and were living in refugee camps in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip when they were forced out again in the 1967 war. The rest comes under the category of "displaced persons" since they had left their homes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967.

In the overall peace process, Jordan is the only party that will be negotiating the issue of refugees and displaced persons with Israel in the immediate term.

The Sept. 13 agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) stipulates that the issue of refugees and displaced persons will be taken up as part of the "final status" negotiations slated for the third year of autonomy.

Documents exchanged during the 12 rounds of bilateral negotiations between Syria and Israel and Lebanon and Syria do not include any reference to the issue of refugees or displaced persons.

Furthermore, Syria and Lebanon are staying away from the multilateral working group on refugees, saying their participation depended on progress in the bilateral track.

"Jordan now finds itself as the sole party which will be taking up such an important issue as refugees with Israel in a bilateral context," noted a senior government official.

"It is not going to be easy, but that is not going to dissuade us from pressing the issue until a just solution is reached," said the official.

Dr. Dudin believes that "there is a pressing need for creative ideas in addressing the issue of refugees in the multilateral and those ideas have to come from the Arab side."

"We cannot expect the international community, the Europeans or Americans to come up with creative ideas for us," he said. "We have to face the realities on the ground and work out a formula."

He did not elaborate, but the reference appeared to be a call by His Majesty King Husayn that the Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees also grant them nationality

without prejudice to their Palestinian identity and their right to return home or receive compensation as individual choice.

Banking, Trade Issues Discussed With Israelis

JN0212100093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2-3 Dec 93 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand—Israeli names as published]

[Text] Amman—Jordanian and Israeli officials Tuesday discussed banking and trade issues, but no definite agreement was expected during the meetings, which were to end Wednesday, official sources said.

During the meeting, the second session of the Jordanian-American- Israeli economic working group set up in October, Jordan "made it clear that no joint projects can materialise before agreement is reached on the basic issues," said a senior official in Amman.

The basic issues, said the official who did not want to be identified, are Jordan's territorial and water rights and the problem of Palestinian refugees hosted by the Kingdom.

The Jerusalem Post reported Wednesday that the meeting, which it said grouped two subcommittees of the working group, considered "such potential projects as a Med-Red-Dead canal and joint development of the al-'Aqabah-Elat ports."

According to the Post's version of the meeting, the discussions also covered the possibility of organising a "large conference bringing together businessmen seeking to invest in Israel and Jordan."

Planning Ministry Under-Secretary Safwan Tuqan and Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Deputy Governor Michel Martu attended the meeting, which was chaired by Dennis Ross, the U.S. State Department's Coordinator on the Middle East.

Israeli officials attending the talks included the Foreign Ministry Secretary-General, Uri Savir, head of the Israeli delegation to bilateral talks with Jordan Elyakim Rubinstein, Finance Ministry Advisor Ehud Kaufman and Vice-President of the Bank of Israel Zeev Abeles, who is decribed as the "point man" in the discussion on banking affairs.

U.S. State Department Deputy spokeswomen Christine Kelly told reporters Tuesday that the working group's meeting was designed to "build on the concept of face-to-face negotiations established in Madrid," where the Middle East peace process was launched in October 1991.

"They deal with the economic issues which directly affect the quality of life of the peoples of the region," said Ms. Kelly, who did not provide details of the discussions.

The Jordanian official said the focus of the talks was on "banking and trade issues"—banking affairs of the autonomous Palestinian territory envisaged under the Sept. 13 accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the flow of goods from Jordan and Israel into the territory.

A broad agreement on the banking sector—where Jordan will supervise commerical banking and currency affairs of the Palestinians during the autonomy period—is in the final stage and its formal endorsement could come after the PLO endorses an economic agreement with Jordan, officials said.

"Israel's quest to continue to retain overall control of foreign exchange entering and leaving the occupied territories in the guise of 'international banking practices' is among the major points that need to be worked out," said a diplomatic source.

For technical purposes, Israel is maintaining the same stand in public. According to Yoah Lehman, spokesman for the Bank of Israel, ceilings on transfer of funds from Jordanian commerical banks expected to reopen in the occupied territories are issues that must be regarded in terms of international standards regarding these activities."

"All these aspects are the aspects that are needed to be arranged. It would be the same as if an Israeli bank wanted to open a branch in the U.S.," Mr. Lehman said recently.

But such an "international approach," is not visible in Israel's stand vis-a-vis the flow of goods to the Palestinian market, officials said.

They said Israel had not shown any sign of relenting on its quest to maintain the Palestinian territory as its monopoly market and was putting up, as one official put it, "all kinds of obstacles" to free trade between Jordan and the Palestinians.

"This is not acceptable to us," said a Jordanian negotiator familiar with the Israeli position. "Trade between Jordan and the Palestinians should be no business of the Israelis."

"If they (Israelis) want to prevent the entry of Jordanian goods into their market through the Palestinians then it is their responsibility to take the measures on their side of the border," added the negotiator.

Israeli Pilot Reportedly Held by Syria or Iran

NC0112205993 Paris AFP in English 2045 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Beirut, Dec 1 (AFP)—Israeli pilot Ron Arad who was captured in Lebanon seven years ago is still alive and is held by either the Syrian or the Iranian intelligence services, a Moslem fundamentalist official told AFP on Wednesday [1 December].

"Ron Arad was handed over to these services by a Lebanese organisation," the official, who asked to remain unidentified, said without naming the group.

He said this issue could only be solved through Syria and Iran, linking Arad's case to that of four Iranian diplomats who disappeared in Lebanon 11 years ago and to Lebanese and Syrian prisoners held in Israel.

The fundamentalist official declined to say where Arad was held and stressed that Syria could play a key role in securing his freedom. "The place of his detention is not important...what is important is that he is alive," he said.

Arad was captured by the Lebanese Shiite Amal movement when his Phantom F-4 plane was shot down by Palestinian guerrillas in south Lebanon in October 1986.

The fundamentalist official said negotiations over Arad took place in Tehran in August between German and Iranian mediators. An Iranian envoy then visited Damascus to coordinate with the Syrian authorities on the matter, he added.

But the official ruled out any solution before achieving "tangible" progress in the Israeli-Syrian bilateral peace talks.

Egypt's ambassador in Israel Muhammad Bassyuni said last week Arad was still held in Lebanon and that Cairo was trying—at Israel's request—to secure his release.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said on Wednesday his country was still working for Arad's release and the repatriation of the bodies of Israeli soldiers Rahamim Alsheikh and Yosef Fink, killed during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Rabin made his remarks in an interview with Israel Radio from Brussels, after thanking the Palestine Liberation Organisation for returning the identification tag of Zekhi'ya Baumel, one of three Israeli military men missing in Lebanon since June 1982. The tag was handed to Rabin's political advisor, Jacques Neriya, in Tunis on Tuesday.

The Israeli prime minister considered the move as a first "positive and significant" step for establishing trust with the Tunis-based PLO.

More information about the whereabouts of two other missing Israeli soldiers—Yehuda Katz and Zvi Feldman—was expected from the PLO, Rabin added.

The two soldiers were killed in an ambush in Lebanon in February 1986 but their bodies were never returned to Israel.

Resistance Fighters Attack Israeli Position

NC0112203993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Resistance fighters attacked the Israeli occupation forces' and agents' position in al-Suwayda' at 1940 today. A clash that lasted for more than 30 minutes ensued between the personnel manning the position and the resistance fighters.

A statement issued by the Lebanese Resistance Battalions-Amal operations room said that the position's main rampart was completely destroyed. [passage omitted]

Israeli Shelling Reported

NC0212004593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] At 0215 this morning, the Israeli artillery shelled the forests of 'Arab Salim, al-Jabal al-Akhdar, and Sahl al-Mi. Janah between Kafr Rumman and 'Arab Salim. Yesterday evening, the Israeli artillery shelled the eastern hills of Kafr Rumman, al-Jabal al-Akhdar, and the outskirts of 'Arab Salim. Two Israeli helicopters flew over the eastern hills of al-Nabatiyah.

Hizballah Clerics Receive No Pay From Iran for 5 Months

NC0112144993 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 29 Nov 93 p 6

[Text] Iranian sources have stated that Islamic propagation clerics in Hizballah have not received their allotments for the fifth month running. These allotments range from $200 to $500, depending on each cleric's activity and personal connections. These allotments are being held in a Hizballah fund in the name of [Hizballah secretary general] Hasan Nasrallah.

'Ali Khamene'i's grant to the clerics, amounting to 125,000 Lebanese pounds, has also not been paid during the same period.

Papers View Christopher Visit, Golan Withdrawal

Editorial Notes Christopher's 'New Ideas'

JN0112204993 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 28 Nov 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Why a Comprehensive Solution?"]

[Text] Press reports have indicated that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region at the beginning of next month may differ from previous ones. According to these reports, the U.S. secretary will carry with him new ideas which may help end the stalemate on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. However, these reports did not give specific details on the ideas that Christopher will carry with him, except that Israel could make an official announcement acknowledging Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

Certainly, an official and clear announcement to this effect would, one way or another, help achieve some progress on the Syrian track. In other words, this would end the blockage that dominated all rounds of bilateral talks because of Israel's refusal to abide by the bases and principles of peace, represented by the implementation of relevant UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338, and accepting the land-for-peace formula. Definitely, this means a full and comprehensive withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. When it presented its famous document during the sixth round of talks, Syria stated that full withdrawal from the Golan Heights would remain the basis of any move toward a just, comprehensive peace. However, Israel failed to officially and explicitly make a commitment to the bases and principles of the peace process. More than anything else, those bases and principles mean a full, comprehensive withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Instead, Israel began procrastinating, maneuvering, and making proposals which Syria cannot accept, because they have nothing to do with a just, comprehensive peace. Thus, matters remained unchanged, until the Gaza-Jericho agreement was signed. As far as Israel is concerned, this agreement constituted the foundation of peace, if not peace itself. Israel deemed other tracks unimportant, and ones that can wait to be settled anytime. This was another mistake. This is because the Gaza-Jericho agreement is not peace and has nothing to do with the peace process which started in Madrid. Moreover, many analysts and observers viewed the agreement as a plan of war and expansion. They believe this because there is a general and absolute international conviction that the peace process has certain conditions and bases, and that the Gaza-Jericho agreement has nothing to do with these conditions and bases. In fact, this agreement is almost a contract of submission that cannot bring the peace that the entire world is working to achieve.

At any rate, Syria will continue to work for the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace. Consequently, we will continue to reject any partial or separate agreements, because we are fully convinced that such agreements do not restore any usurped Arab rights, but help the Arabs' common enemy to achieve more of its aggressive and expansionist objectives. Therefore, when Syria insists on a comprehensive solution, it is because it realizes it is the only way to achieve peace, security, and stability in the region, not the circumvention of the conditions and principles of real peace.

Progress in Talks Expected

PM0112164093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Nov 93 p3

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report: "Damascus Calls on Israel To Declare Recognition of Syrian Sovereignty Over the Golan"]

[Excerpts] Damascus—Just before the start of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, in which Syria will be the focal point, Damascus has announced that Israeli recognition of Syrian sovereignty over the Golan would help break the deadlock in the peace process.

In statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Syrian official sources said they expect Christopher to bring with him some ideas including a call on Israel to take an official stand confirming Syria's sovereignty over the Golan. They said that Christopher's forthcoming tour might be different from previous tours because he would be carrying new ideas that would enable some movement on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks with Israel, particularly as the U.S. sponsor of the peace process has developed a clear vision and now confirms that the Syrian track is the most important track in the peace process and that without it the peace process cannot achieve its set objective of establishing a just and lasting peace in the region.

Diplomatic sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Christopher will bring specific ideas and seek to crystallize them and that they might take the form of a draft declaration of principles which he would submit to Syria, Lebanon, and Israel.

As a result of Christopher's tour, Israel might announce an official and open stance confirming Syria's sovereignty over the Golan on the basis of the land-for-peace principle. [passage omitted]

The same sources add that leaked information on Rabin's talks in Washington indicates that Israel wants open Syrian recognition and acceptance of peace and normalization of relations with Israel, necessitating diplomatic representation between the two countries, as well as Syrian acceptance of the Israeli Army's continued presence in the Golan for a time to look after the Israeli settlers in the transitional period. That is in addition to the question of withdrawal of the Syrian Army from Lebanon to coincide with the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from the south and al-Biqa', as well as a Lebanese

initiative to stop the activities of Hizballah and the Palestinian opposition, disarm both, and deploy the Lebanese Army in the south and in al-Biqa', plus a Lebanese agreement to sign a peace treaty and normalize relations with Israel.

The diplomatic sources believe that Syria might have some reservations regarding these demands because the Syrian demands have been clear from the beginning of the Washington negotiations as stated in the known Syrian working paper. [passage omitted]

Syrian political sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that, in the coming negotiations, Syria will concern itself with the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace and would accept nothing short of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories including the Golan, fulfillment of the Palestinian people's rights, and implementation of the Security Council resolutions pertaining to the peace process. Only that would bring peace. [passage omitted]

Papers Stress Need For Withdrawal

JN0212083593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Regaining The Entire Golan Heights," TISHRIN says: With the approach of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, talk has risen on the means to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Talk has also risen on the need to boost the Syrian track on the basis of the commitments to end Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights.

The paper adds: It is time now to offer practical ideas concerning the question of territory. Israel must respond to the principal prerequisite for peace; namely, complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the implementation of the pertinent resolutions of international legitimacy.

The paper warns against continued Israel procrastination and new maneuvers over the Golan Heights. Such an attitude, the paper says, will not help the peace process or achieve any desired progress toward the genuine, just, and comprehensive peace.

The paper stresses that Syria—which on several occasions welcomed the U.S. pledges to play the role of the full partner and fair broker and to continue efforts to implement the U.S. initiative and reach the comprehensive peace—cannot accept anything less than the regaining of the entire Golan Heights, which will prove that Israel is serious about making and establishing peace in the region.

TISHRIN concludes its editorial saying: Syria's position is clear and definite: There can be no peace with occupation. Peace cannot come in installments. The Arabs are not standing in line waiting for charity. If the peace talks stop, they will stop for good. Syria is interested in peace. And, there is no alternative to the retrieval of the entire Golan Heights as a condition for this peace.

Under the headline, "The Expected Decline," AL-BA'TH says in an editorial: Proponents of the [Gaza-Jericho] agreement within the Palestinian leadership have asked the intifadah heroes and fedayeen to surrender their arms to the Israelis because the armed struggle is over with the approach of the so-called peace. Out of confidence in the Palestinian leadership, some had believed this. They gave up their arms to the Israeli occupation authorities, and welcomed peace.

AL-BA'TH adds: Only days later, Israeli assassination squads dashed to murder the intifadah fedayeen in broad daylight, spill blood, and destroy houses. This is the kind of peace they wish to apply between Israel and the Arab parties.

The paper explains: They want to disarm the Arabs and give a free hand to Israel, which is armed to the teeth with all kinds of weapons, including nuclear and chemical weapons, to control the fate of the Arabs. They also wanted to sell the lie on the withdrawal date, but when that date approached, Yitzhaq Rabin came out to the world with his acclaimed statement that the date is not sacred, and that he does not believe there is anything sacred.

The paper stresses that what happened within the context of the Oslo agreement is a true expression of the Israeli position, which would not help establish peace, and which does not believe in justice or comprehensiveness.

The paper says serious work to achieve peace is not done in words, but in deeds and through clear, unambiguous statements and by accepting international legitimacy and pledging to apply it.

The paper stresses that Syria works for the sake of the just and comprehensive peace, whose basis and requirements are stipulated in the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The paper stresses that Israel's attempts to force the Arabs to accept relinquishment of their territory and dignity are doomed to failure.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: We in Syria have confirmed our seriousness in working for the sake of the just and comprehensive peace. Others must confirm their seriousness by agreeing to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy and not partial, flawed agreements and an illusionary peace, which will soon decline and collapse in the face of the reality and the facts of history and geography in the occupied territories and the region in general.

Discussing the same subject under the headline "Curtailing Israel," AL-THAWRAH says: The real measure for the success of Christopher's mission hinges primarily on his ability to convince Israel to accept all the conditions

dictated by peace, particularly those relating to complete withdrawal and the comprehensive solution on all fronts.

The paper says it believes that the U.S. Administration knows well that the comprehensive peace is possible despite all of Israel's hurdles and obstacles. The paper says: All that Washington has to do is effectively use its power and influence to force Israel to comply fully with the UN resolutions and the land for peace formula.

The paper concludes by saying: No one doubts that if there was decisive U.S. intervention, it will return Israel to the correct path and free the peace process from the abyss of disintegration and collapse. It will further open the doors wide for the chances to achieve the just and comprehensive peace.

Syria Ready To Bolster Iraqi Opposition's Unity

PM0112142493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Nov 93 p 6

[Ibrahim Humaydi report: "Khaddam: Syria Willing To Bolster Iraqi Opposition Unification"]

[Text] Official sources in Damascus have confirmed that Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam met yesterday with a delegation from the Iraqi opposition Democratic Committee for Coordinating Pan-Arab Action and discussed conditions in Iraq with it. The delegation met recently with 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the ruling Ba'th Party in Syria, at the end of the committee's regular meeting.

The committee's sources told AL-HAYAH that the talks between Khaddam and the delegation dealt with "issues concerning the unification of the opposition's ranks, the formation of a field leadership for it, agreement with the other tendencies in the Iraqi opposition, and a review of what we have achieved with regard to the formation of an Iraqi national front." They added that the delegation requested "Syrian moral and material support and the use of Syria's position as a fraternal and neighboring state with the other opposition parties in order to topple President Saddam Husayn's regime and establish a democratic alternative."

The sources noted that the delegation encountered a response from Khaddam, who "stressed pan-Arab and national constants, ties between the Syrian and Iraqi peoples, and Iraq's unity in terms of unity, people, and entity."

The sources quoted Khaddam as saying that "Syria is ready to bolster the opposition's unity and offer all it can, provided Iraq's unity and people are safeguarded."

Afghanistan

'Tension' Among Hekmatyar's 'Ringleaders' Noted

LD0112173393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] A militia ringleader belonging to Hekmatyar's party was killed in the area of Tagab district as a result of blows dealt by the Islamic Army. Quoting a responsible source for the country's security forces, a BIA correspondent reported that Qadir, a ringleader of Hekmatyar's militia, was driving to the battlefront along with 50 passengers. He was killed as a result of an attack by the Islamic Army. Some 12 passengers were severely wounded. Their vehicle was destroyed.

According to another report, a group of Hekmatyar's militia, headed by Captain Aman—after suffering 100 dead and wounded and the capture of another nine—fled from Tagab district. The report adds that another Hekmatyar ringleader, Zardad, prevented the retreat of Captain Aman's troops. This action has caused tension between the ringleaders of Hekmatyar's party.

Hekmatyar's View of Country's Future Decried

LD2911215393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Nov 93

[BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY commentary]

[Text] What sort of a future does Afghanistan have from Golboddin Hekmatyar's viewpoint? What does the amir of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] want? A BIA political commentator writes in this regard:

The plans, views, and proposals of Golboddin Hekmatyar are indicative of his aims for the future of our country. During the last one and a half years Hezb-e Eslami has several times engaged in war against the Islamic State of Afghanistan. The first proposal of the amir of that Hezb [party], after the [establishment] of the Islamic government, was the dismemberment of the Islamic Army. His forces looted the military units and companies in areas under his control and used their military equipment against the Islamic state. From Golboddin Hekmatyar's viewpoint, all those work in the Army and state apparatus are rejected and replaceable.

The amir of Hezb-e Eslami believes that all the people should be armed and military centralization, which constitutes the foundation of every Army, should be disbanded. He, therefore, insists the posts of the Defense and Interior Ministries should remain without a minister and, in the most critical conditions of the country, the system of leadership of the Armed Forces be disrupted. Professional and expert individuals are not important to Golboddin Hekmatyar.

He, who tries to destroy the country's economy, insists that professional people should be dismissed and simultaneously, after the destruction of the economic system of the country during the past battles, now uses the road communications between Kabul and Jalalabad which are under the control of his forces, and the electricity dams, against the Islamic state as political tools.

One of the most fundamental problems faced by the people, the shortage of foodstuff, is due to taxes that Golboddin Hekmatyar's forces extract from transport vehicles along the Kabul-Jalalabad highway.

Golboddin Hekmatyar who, in the opinion of those watching the affairs of Afghanistan and politicians of our own country, is a defeated prime minister, now insists, through illogical proposals, to create a vacuum of power and for whom which the national interests of our country are not important, insists that the security organs of the country—who are in charge of safeguarding order and security—should be disbanded and criticizes the printing of bank notes and the Afghan currency, which is being carried out through legal ways. However, he, who is fighting against the state sovereignty by spending large amounts of money and employs mercenaries, consider himself blameless and does not want to answer anyone regarding this expenditure and the sources of its finance.

It can be easily understood as to what sort of Afghanistan will be there for Golboddin Hekmatyar in the future, and what he wants from the war-weary Afghans by his sort of proposals.

Two Killed in Shelling in Kabul

LD0112174493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Two people were martyred and seven injured yesterday [30 November] when the residential areas of Kabul city's ward no. 9 were subjected to 60 mortar and rockets attack by Golboddin Hekmatyar's forces.

Quoting a responsible source from Kabul garrison command, a BIA correspondent reports that the missiles were fired from an eastern direction, where Hekmatyar's forces are in control. As a result of the attack, in addition to the loss of life, heavy material damage has also been inflicted.

Report on Clashes in Kabul Refuted

LD0112165793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] The so-called Message of Freedom TV belonging to Hezb-e Eslami-e Hekmatyar issued a fabricated report yesterday evening concerning clashes in Kabul city. A BAKHTAR military correspondent contacted the Ministry of Defense and the general command of Kabul garrison in this connection. Those sources rejected the news item of Message of Freedom TV and stated that no armed clash has taken place in the city center. The broadcasting of such falsehoods is part of the propaganda program of Golboddin Hekmatyar.

* Mas'ud-Dostam Disagreement on 'Afghan Arabs' Detailed

94P50044A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Nov 93 p 4

[Text] Kabul, London—Two of the strongest Afghan factional leaders are making preparations for a struggle with each other after the alliance which has linked them for two years was shaken because of a conflict over "the Afghan Arabs."

General 'Abdol-Rashid Dostam, the Uzbek leader, warned Ahmad Shah Mas'ud that he must withdraw from the Uzbek territories that he occupies in the Konduz district in northeast Afghanistan. Dostam stated in his message to Mas'ud, "We are on one side, and one should not take any of the land of the other, but should unite against the enemies of Afghanistan."

Sources near Mas'ud said that his forces occupy a strip of land in Konduz district in readiness for attacks to be launched on one of prime minister-designee Hekmatyar Golboddin's Hezb-e Eslami strongholds. Golboddin is operating from a base near Kabul.

According to sources near Mas'ud, the small part of Konduz occupied by Hekmatyar has become a refuge for the Afghan Arabs. It is thought that there are 300 Egyptian, Algerian, Sudanese, Jordanian, and Yemeni Afghans at a base which Mas'ud hopes to capture soon. In order for this attack to succeed, Mas'ud's forces need to use a piece of land which is under the control of some of Dostam's Uzbeks. Reports received last week stated that Dostam himself is thinking of attacking the pocket occupied by the Arab "Afghans," occupying it, and then using it as a bargaining chip to obtain international recognition for his position in Afghanistan.

Gaylani Meets Islamic Movement Chiefs, Baghlan Governor

LD0112184193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Esteemed Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, the leader of Mahaz-e Meli-ye Eslami-ye Afghanistan [National Islamic Front of Afghanistan] today met at his residence with Esteemed General Rahmatollah Raufi and Esteemed Gen. Hamayun Pawzi, deputy leaders of the National Islamic Movement [of Gen. Abdol Rashid Dostam], and the governor of Baghlan Esteemed Gen. Sayed Jafar Naderi. At the meeting, which was attended by some generals, topics of interest were discussed.

Structure, Activity of Egyptian Islamist Groups Described

NC2911163593 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 27 Nov 93 p 12

[Report from Cairo by Amin Radwan]

[Text] One of the most important topics featured in the recent Egyptian-Afghan talks in Cairo between President Husni Mubarak and his Afghan counterpart Borhanoddin Rabbani was the issue of the Egyptian Islamist groups in Afghanistan and cooperation between the two countries to deal with these groups and restrict their activity.

When the activity of the Islamists began growing in Egypt, Cairo was not aware of the size of these groups in Afghanistan, the nature of their role, their relationship with the Afghan parties, and the extent of their connection with the regional and international intelligence services operating among them. But over the past two years, and after the "returnees from Afghanistan" groups were tried before military courts, and in the wake of the testimonies they gave, stunning facts were revealed to the Egyptian investigation authorities, among the most important of which was the role of regional and international services in reorganizing these groups after the end of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and giving them new roles to play.

In light of these facts, Egypt submitted 13 requests to the Afghan authorities to surrender to it 267 Egyptians whom the Egyptian security services termed a "dangerous group." They represent the leaders of the Afghan Egyptian groups, which include over 1,200 members.

These facts were contained in a special file prepared by the Egyptian security services which was placed before the Afghan president during his talks with Mubarak. The file indicated that the Egyptian formations currently in Afghanistan are divided into several groups. The most important of these is the one called in Afghanistan the "Regional Group," which includes Shawqi al- Islambuli, Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, 'Abduh Zakariya, 'Abd-al-Mut'ali Husayn, Ibrahim al-Fazzan, Sayyid 'Ubayd al-Mukhtar, 'Ali al- Sharuni, Muhammad Bakhit 'Abd-al-Rida, 'Abdallah Muhammadayn 'Uways, Fu'ad Radwan al-Maytami, Salih Khalil Hasan, Hasanayn al-Najjar Muhammad, Rabi' Rikabi Musa, Ahmad Ibrahim Mansur, Jamal 'Awad, al-'Arabi Tariq al-Fatih, and Muhammad Jalal Badrawi.

The Egyptian security services have attributed to the "Egyptian Regional Group" the implementation of 15 "terrorist" incidents in Egypt through some 350 elements it leads. They say that these elements receive financial and military support from Iranian services and some wealthy Gulf figures.

This group has split from a larger group known as the "al-Da'wah and al-Shari'ah Group," which was formed by the Pakistani security services after the departure of the Soviets from Afghanistan. They gave it a new role, which is to support the leader of the Hezb-i-Islami leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, an opponent of the Afghan president.

During the Afghan-Russian war, the "al-Da'wah and al-Shari'ah Group" represented the mother organization of all the Afghan Arabs and Muslims from the European countries. It received direct support from the American,

British, French, and Israeli intelligence services, and its operations were called "stars operations."

According to the Egyptian file on these groups, some 800 Egyptians operate under the command of Shawqi al-Islambuli and Ayman al-Zawahiri. The number of Algerians is about 700, Tunisians 400, Iraqis 370, Yemenis 300, Libyans 200, Sudanese 150, about 100 from the Gulf, and 70 from European countries. These constitute the main groups of the "Afghan Arab mujahidin."

As a result of the differences that broke out among the regional and international security services on how to use these groups after the Russian departure from Afghanistan, Pakistan discovered that the American security services wanted to exploit these groups to undermine the situation in Afghanistan and form a large military group to support Golboddin Hekmatyar and Abdul Rasul Sayyaf against Afghan Defense Minister Ahmed Masud and Borhanoddin Rabbani.

According to Egyptian security sources, Pakistan learned the details of this American plan and warned leaders of the al- Da'wah and al-Shari'ah Group so that they would foil it. The major split within the group took place after that, resulting in a halt to the "stars operations" after the end of the Afghan-Russian war. But Pakistan wanted to foil the American plan so that it could play a regional role in Afghanistan. After the failure of the "stars operations," Pakistan embarked on the reformation of some "Afghan Arab mujahidin" groups so that they would play a role on its behalf, away from the joint American-Western-Israeli role. It established six camps for special training in Peshawar. But the problem that faced the Pakistanis in 1988 was that they discovered nine other camps for these groups in Peshawar under the supervision of the Americans themselves.

According to Egyptian security sources, 400 Egyptians were trained by the Americans in Peshawar. From them, American intelligence formed the "special or private action" group. Pakistan managed to solve the problem by forming "its own front of Afghan Arab mujahidin of various nationalities, calling it "the Islamic Group [quotation marks as published]. Some 90 Egyptians joined the group, which Pakistan tried to use to deal a blow to the American-sponsored "special action" group. The first bloody confrontation between the two groups took place in 1990; 10 Egyptians and 40 other nationals were killed.

The sources say that Iran was aware of the struggle between Pakistani and international security agencies, and of the ideological differences among the Afghan Arab mujahidin themselves. It intervened in a unique way, with which those mujahidin, who worked for Islamic internationalism, were unfamiliar. Iran called for the formation of the so-called "regional groups;" that is, each group from a certain Arab or Islamic country organized itself under leadership from the same country. Thus, the "Egyptian Regional Group," the Algerian Regional Group," the Yemeni Regional Group," and so on, were formed. The Afghan Arab mujahidin largely responded to the Iranian call because of the differences among them, thanks to the invasion of foreign agencies.

The Egyptian security sources express astonishment that the Iranians succeeded in forming those groups without providing them with any financial or military support. Egyptian security services identified 134 Gulf figures supporting these groups; they estimate that the Egyptian group received $150 million from those figures. The security services laid their hands on $30 million deposited in Egyptian banks in the name of some recently arrested individuals. About $15 million worth of light weapons and ammunition have also been seized.

The Egyptian security agencies conclude that there is a relationship between those Gulf figures and the Iranian security services. They also conclude that the identified Gulf financiers are willing to play a role in other Arab countries, like Egypt. The conclusion is substantiated by the fact that 65 of those Gulf figures have trade and financial links with the United States and Europe. More than 80 joint trade and financial projects between those figures and a number of financial and economic institutions in Europe and the United States were identified. These institutions, nonetheless, prefer to deal with Iran when it comes to the policies of the region and the financing of the Islamic groups in the Arab countries.

Egypt's security sources did not list the names of any of these figures other than those who were mentioned during the interrogation of the groups that returned from Afghanistan and were brought to trial in Egypt recently, such as Usamah Bin-Ladin and his brother Khalid, who owns a farm in the al-Nubariyah area near Alexandria. But the Gulf countries denied any involvement. In the contacts that Egypt had held with these countries, and despite the files it presented to them on the activities of these figures in financing the Islamic groups and the confessions of the defendants in these cases, the Gulf countries, led by Saudi Arabia, denied in their replies to Egypt any involvement at any time up till last month. But it is known that there are the so-called "Brotherhood Groups" [Jama'at al-Ukhuwwah] in these countries that collect contributions in mosques for the Arab mujahidin. These groups have great financial influence inside the Gulf countries. The mechanism for collecting funds for the mujahidin, and for the "Eritrean Islamic Jihad" organization recently, is to call for contributions in the mosques under the very nose of the Gulf countries' governments. A higher committee collects these funds and then distributes them according to its own priorities. With the exception of the special funds that the Gulf governments donated to the Afghan mujahidin and the ones being given to the Bosnian Muslims, none of these countries has sought, either directly or indirectly, to allocate official funds for supporting the Islamists in the Arab countries.

In view of the Gulf countries' denial, the Egyptian Government had no choice but to follow another course

to halt the flow of Gulf funds to the Islamic organizations. It turned toward Afghanistan so as to convince its leadership to hand over the members of the Egyptian regional group. Egypt gave Afghanistan in the past three months four lists of people and asked for their extradition to the security organs in Egypt. But Kabul denied that they were in its territories even though the Egyptian security forces had pinpointed their whereabouts in the central areas of Afghanistan which are under the control of Golboddin Hekmatyar and said they were operating with the Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party]. The Afghan president stressed in his recent talks with the Egyptian president that he could not control the Egyptian groups operating with Hekmatyar or those operating within the "Special Action" group that is under U.S. control.

Egyptian officials have repeatedly asked Washington to stop dealing with the "Special Action" group, but U.S. officials have completely denied having any ties with the group and also stressed to Cairo that the Egyptians operating with them in Afghanistan and Pakistan belong to groups that are seeking to know the activities of the anti-U.S. groups.

According to Egyptian sources, the Americans have not paid much attention to the Egyptian insistence, even during President Mubarak's recent visit to Washington where U.S. officials insisted on their stand. This created differences between the two sides over the issue of security cooperation in combating "regional terrorism." In the end, Cairo accepted this cooperation following Washington's economic pressures, but kept it as a formality.

Rabbani told Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, during the latter's undisclosed visit to Afghanistan two months ago, that there were no regional or international intelligence activities over Afghan territories.

A senior security official, who refused to divulge his name, said that solving the problem of the Islamists' leaders abroad needs extensive Egyptian diplomatic action. The decision to open an Egyptian embassy in Kabul could perhaps be part of this action.

The official added that Pakistan had responded in the past few months to the Egyptian demands. It expelled the Egyptian groups from its territories but refused to hand them over to Egypt's authorities. Hekmatyar enrolled them in his ranks and set up a new camp for them in the area under his control.

Egypt and Afghanistan had agreed to draw up an agreement on the exchange of "political and other criminals" but its implementation was delayed for more than seven months and was only initialed during Rabbani's recent visit to Cairo. Egypt's Foreign Ministry regarded this as a major diplomatic achievement. But the problems facing the agreement were reflected in the Afghan condition in the agreement which noted "that it is not permissible to extradite criminals in accordance with Egyptian security lists but in accordance with judiciary sentences issued against these wanted criminals." The list of the names of 267 Egyptians that was recently handed to Rabbani included the names of only 96 against whom court sentences have been issued. None of the available evidence against the other names on the list is confirmed.

Rabbani Meets Italian Foreign Ministry Official

LD2911180793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Nov 93

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, this morning received Mr. Francisco [name indistinct], political director in the Italian Foreign Affairs Ministry in southeast Asian Affairs, in Golkhana Hall of the presidency.

The press department of the presidency reports that at the meeting, esteemed Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani recalled with appreciation the humanitarian assistance of the Italian state during the Jehad and Islamic revolution of Afghanistan, and spoke about the latest developments in Afghanistan and expressed the hope that our international friends who stood at the side of our Muslim nation during the years of Jehad, would now too, more than ever before expand their cooperation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Then Mr. Francisco [name indistinct] expressed the interest of his country concerning the developments in Afghanistan and promised his country's readiness to take part in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. He also stated his country's readiness to reopen the Italian embassy in Kabul.

Presidency Council Discusses National Issues

LD3011213593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] A meeting of the Presidency Consultative Council discussed various matters in the country. A BIA correspondent reported that at the meeting, which was chaired by esteemed Professor 'Abdol Fatah [name indistinct] at Delkosha Palace, matters concerning the shortage of foodstuffs and the (blockade) of highways were discussed. It asked all the sides involved to cooperate in eliminating the problems facing Kabul's citizens and for the provision of primary foodstuffs.

The council expressed concern about the continuation of the war in Sarobi, Naghlu, and around Tagab, and they decided that the battle around Tagab should be halted very soon.

The meeting also considered a series of other matters in the country and unanimously decided that a conference should be convened very soon in order to seek ways and

methods of getting out of the current situation. [Words indistinct] ways of a solution to the problems to be found.

India

Rao Not To Be Queried on Payoff Allegations

BK0112032893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] The JPC [Joint Parliamentary Committee] probing the security scandal has decided not to summon the prime minister or the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leaders in connection with the payoff allegations. It has also decided not to examine any more witnesses. The JPC will present the report tentatively on the 17th of this month.

Briefing reporters about the resumed meeting of the JPC in New Delhi, the JPC chairman, Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha, said the report has been modified in the light of suggestions from some members and include separate chapters on the role of the investigating agencies and the pay-off allegations. Members have been asked to send their amendments by tomorrow. These will be put to vote, if the members insist. Mr. Mirdha said the members will be given three days to give their note of dissent if any.

Congress-I Gains Absolute Majority in Madhya

BK0112160093 Delhi All Indi Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Excerpt] A PTI report from Bhopal says that the Congress-I has secured an absolute majority in the 320-member Madhya Pradesh legislative assembly. Out of 305 results available so far, the party has bagged 170 seats. However, official results are available for 202 seats. Of them 114 have gone to the Congress-I, followed by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] 71, BSP [Bahujan Samaj Party] seven, and Janata Dal two. One seat has gone to the CPI [Comunist Party of India], while independents and others have seven seats. [passage omitted]

Congress-I: State Elections Outcome 'Historic'

BK0212041093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] The Congress-I Working Committee [CWC] has hailed the outcome of the [state] assembly elections as historic. It said that the party has succeeded in stopping the onslaught of the communal forces. The CWC met for about two and half hours under the chairmanship of the party president, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi last night to discuss the post-poll situation. The discussions will be resumed this evening. The CWC members called for steps to tune up the party with a greater focus on the new social realities, particularly in Uttar Pradesh. Briefing newsmen, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil said that a suggestion was made for giving a more pro-backward and minority image to the party. Some members said that fielding the relatives and followers of some leaders is one of the factors which went against the party in Rajasthan. A view was expressed that failure to project government's achievements led to the party's defeat in Uttar Pradesh. The CWC expressed satisfaction over the outcome in Madhya Pradesh. Mr. Gadgil said a decision will be taken tomorrow on the suggestion for an extended CWC meeting for an in-depth analyses of the post-election situation.

The Executive Committee of the Congress-I Parliamentary Party [CPP] has expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the assembly elections. At its meeting in New Delhi, the committee said that the verdict has upheld the secular ideals of the Congress-I. The CPP executive also resolved to strengthen the hands of the prime minister to consolidate the secular forces.

6 More Srinagar Shrine 'Militants' Released

BK0112033093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 dec 93

[Text] In Srinagar, six of the 30 militants, who came out of the Hazratbal shrine along with 35 persons on the 16th of last month, have been released. With this, the number of 12 militants have been set free so far. [sentence as heard] The first batch of six militants were released on Sunday.

Official Spokesman on Chinese Official's Visit

BK0112162193 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1456 GMT 01 Dec 93

[Official spokesman's statement in response to queries regarding visit of Mr. Li Ruihuan; date and place not given]

[Text] Mr. Li Ruihuan, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference—CPPCC—, is currently visiting India at the invitation of the vice president, Mr K.R. Narayanan. He is accompanied by a 56-member delegation consisting of leading members of the CPPCC and the Chinese Foreign Office, including nine officials of the level of vice ministers and above. Mr Li is one of the seven members of the Chinese Communist Party Politburo Standing Committee, highest decision making body in China.

Mr. Li Ruihuan reached Bombay on 29th November, where his engagements included a meeting with the governor of Maharashtra. He arrived in New Delhi yesterday afternoon. Since his arrival, he has had a series of meetings with Indian leaders. He called on Dr. Najma Heptulla, chairperson of Rajya Sabha, soon after his arrival who latter hosted a dinner in his honour last evening. Earlier today, Mr. Li called on the president and the speaker of Lok Sabha and had a separate meeting

with the external affairs minister. Later today, the minister of parliamentary affairs and the minister of state for external affairs, R.L. Bhatia, are calling on him. He will be meeting the prime minister on 3d December. He will leave New Delhi on the morning of 4th December, 1993.

Speaking at the welcoming dinner last evening, Dr. Najma Heptulla stated that the visit of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to China in September this year had taken India-China relations to a new stage. "Overcoming past difficulties and past prejudices, we are on the way towards achieving stability, durability and good neighbourliness in our relationship that both countries desire", she added.

ULFA 'Militants' Backed by Pakistan, Bangladesh

BK0112092893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] The Assam chief minister, Mr. Hiteswar Saikia, has said that his government will deal firmly with ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam], who are still active in the state. Addressing a press conference at (Howrahkandi) near Silchar, Mr. Saikia said the ULFA is taking shelter in the Barak Valley. Pakistan and Bangladesh are helping them with arms to destabilize the region. Referring to the complaints regarding the preparation of voters list, the chief minister said that the state government has no power to exclude or include the names in the list and only the Election Commission has this power. Mr. Saikia said that his government will see that genuine voters are not harassed, and identity cards will be introduced soon for this purpose.

EC Using India as 'Convenient Pawn' in GATT

BK0112025893 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 24 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] Ambassador Tran Van Tinh, the European Community's (EC) chief negotiator in Geneva wrote to former GATT chief Arthur Dunkel in December 1991 to plead India's case in the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations.

In an unusual and surprising note Tran asked Dunkel to help India and not the United States (US) in the area of Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). A copy of that note has been obtained by the INDIAN EXPRESS. In it, Tran tells Dunkel that:

—"The Indians are facing problems from developing countries who feel that India has let down developing country positions in pursuit of its own interests"; and,
—"It is absolutely necessary to help India. The most important help should be in the area of TRIPS. It is necessary to take steps in their favour and not in favour of the Americans who are going too far with their exigencies. This is an appeal and an advice."

Since, nothing is free in international trade and diplomacy, the questions everyone is asking are:

—What did India promise in return for this note?
—Why did India need the EC (its rival in the textiles dossier) to plead it's case before Dunkel?
—Is this a reflection of the failure of India's politico-economic diplomacy?
—Did the EC really help India against the US?

Some negotiators say the Europeans only paid lip service to India's interests, while others state that they did what they could. However, all agree that there was nothing altruistic in it and that the Community found India useful, especially on the MTO [Multilateral Trade Organization] issue.

GATT-watchers also say that at present, with the EC and the US ganging up to push an Uruguay Round accord through at all costs, India has cut a sorry figure.

And, Indian negotiators are the first to concede that if the EC and US join hands, the others don't really matter the multilateral system notwithstanding. The way the two have held up an Uruguay Round deal since 1990 because of the agriculture dispute is only a case in point.

What is known is that the trade-off was between India using its influence to get countries to rally behind the EC's baby—the Multilateral Trade Organisation (MTO) in return for the Community's assistance on TRIPS

The US opposed—and still does—the MTO and the EC sought to broaden support for it by roping in major players in the Uruguay Round to back the MTO.

Some diplomats say that India was a convenient pawn for the EC. To be fair, the MTO was also a move to prevent the unilateral action that countries like the US had resorted to. But, there was also a view within the EC that if the US blocked the MTO (to save its own unilateral legislative authority under the Super and Special 301 clauses of its trade law), the EC would prepare its own 301-like laws to pry open markets including India's.

What is also known is that Dunkel did not help India on TRIPS and that the EC fell silent when the going got tough.

And, the EC did not help India in the textiles dossier either. Sources in the Geneva-based International Textiles and Clothing Bureau (ITCB) say that the EC is not opposing the latest US drive to seek 15 years to integrate textiles into GATT (as opposed to the 8 years sought by India and the 10 years envisaged in the Dunkel text).

It is not unusual in international trade and diplomacy to find countries forming blocks to promote common interests. One Indian negotiator remarked that the US literally drove India into the arms of the EC by making wild demands on TRIPS.

The Dunkel Draft on TRIPS will set up global standards and norms and establish global monopolies including import monopolies for holders of such rights. Developing countries had turned down extravagant US

demands that asked for 'pipeline protection' which in effect would require retrospective application by countries of any change they effect in laws.

When the Uruguay Round is accepted as a single package as provided in the Dunkel Draft and countries ratify it, it will create a new GATT and an MTO to administer it as well as the service and TRIPS agreements.

There will also be an integrated dispute settlement under the MTO which would enable cross-retaliation across agreements, though this right sought by the US and the EC has been somewhat circumscribed and blunted by various levels and processes to be exhausted. For instance, retaliation will first have to be in the sector under question before moving to say TRIPS or services.

In the MTO text that has now emerged, while the US has gained some points, it has to give way on several others. On the question of what is known in GATT as "disputes arising out of non-violation actions" there is no agreement. India has been insisting that there could be no nonviolation under the TRIPS agreement. The US wants to maintain such a possibility, the EC, however, is not known to support it.

Iran

Lebanon's Junblatt Denounces PLO-Israeli Deal

LD0112151893 Tehran IRNA in English 1351 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA—The visiting Lebanese Minister for Displaced People Walid Junblatt on Wednesday [1 December] lauded the Islamic Republic for its opposition to the PLO-Israel compromise deal.

"Iran has played a key role in helping Lebanese Muslims protect their rights against Zionist aggressions and the West-backed crusaders," Junblatt, also head of the Socialist Progressive Party of Lebanon told IRNA.

The Lebanese minister said that he was here for consultations with Iranian officials on the latest developments in Lebanon and to consolidate relations between the two sides.

He said the so-called Gaza-Jericho agreement reached between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Zionist regime is against the aspiration of the Palestinian people for establishing an independent state.

Junblatt said the Gaza-Jericho accord has failed to take into account such an important issues as the liberation of Qods [Jerusalem], Palestinian refugees and deportees and elimination of Jewish settlements.

The Gaza-Jericho accord actually heralds a large-scale offensive aimed at providing the West with cheap oil and weakening Arab and Muslim states, he said.

Referring to the activities of the Islamic resistance movement in southern Lebanon and his party's role in this regard, Junblatt said his Socialist Progressive Party was engaged in political activities to liberate southern Lebanon while "our brothers in Hizbollah movement have a key military role."

Meets Majles Speaker

LD0112161693 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA—The Lebanese Minister of Displaced People and Druze Leader, Walid Junblatt, here Wednesday [1 December] expressed regret that certain Arab states have given in to Gaza-Jerico plan and emphasized resistance of Arab nations against such treacherous moves. Junblatt, meeting with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, cautioned the Central Asian states against Zionist regime's ideological and economic influence.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri condemned the plots hatched by the world arrogant powers as well as their attempts to take advantage of disintegration of countries and fanning the flames of ethnic differences.

He also praised the cooperation between the Druze and the Islamic Resistance Movement and stated that Iranian people and authorities will always back the Lebanese Muslim people.

Confers With Interior Minister

LD0212093893 Tehran IRNA in English 0818 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 2, IRNA—The visiting Lebanese Minister for Displaced People Walid Junblatt here Wednesday warned that the Zionist regime's pressures on Muslims will increase if Gaza-Jericho peace process is not blocked. Speaking in a meeting with the Iranian interior minister, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, Junblatt added that the accord will further increase influence of the Zionist regime as well.

Besharati referred to the accord which was reached between the Zionist regime and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in September, as a conspiracy against independence-seeking movements.

He said that the United States and the Zionist regime had created grave problems for the region and sow discord among Muslim ummah through Gaza-Jericho compromise.

Turning to the drop in oil prices as another conspircy against Muslims, Besharati underlined the need for unity among Muslim and freedom-seeking countries.

Hamas Leader Abu-Marzuq Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0112151093 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1430 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] The Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] Movement leader, Mr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, and his entourage, this morning called on President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Speaking to his host, Mr. Marzuq thanked Iran's humanitarian efforts to create harmony and coordination among the militant Palestinian groups and promote their solidarity. He then expressed appreciation for Tehran's just stance regarding the Palestinian issue, and later submitted a detailed report on the situation in the Zionist-occupied lands following the signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord.

President Rafsanjani stressed Iran's full support for the Palestinian uprising aimed at liberating the Holy Qods [Jerusalem], and expressed hope that the militant Muslim groups would achieve all their sacred goals.

President Rafsanjani later received the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party head, Walid Junblatt. At the meeting, the Lebanese official briefed the president on the latest political developments in his country.

Says Gaza-Jericho Accord 'Doomed To Fail'

LD0212104193 Tehran IRNA in English 1009 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 2, IRNA—A visiting senior Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] official here Thursday [2 December] said flames of intifada will never die and stressed Gaza-Jericho accord is doomed to fail.

Musa Abu-Marzuq, in charge of Hamas Political Bureau, told IRNA that Gaza-Jericho accord between the Zionist regime and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) had in fact legitimized occupation of the Palestinian territories.

Abu-Marzuq who arrived here last Sunday said the objective of his visit was to inform Iranian officials of Hamas stands as well as developments in occupied Palestine in the aftermath of the conclusion of the Gaza-Jericho accord.

Turning to the chaotic situation in occupied territories, Gaza Strip in particular, he said that Hamas movement had predicted the consequences of the compromise and warned that it would not materialise aspirations of the Palestinian nation.

He said that under the status quo the strategy of Hamas was to continue struggle against the Zionist regime with the help of the Palestinian people.

Abu-Marzuq said the movement would take steps out of the occupied territories to demonstrate the status of the oppressed Palestinians and reiterated that intifada would continue.

Passengers, Crew of Hijacked Plane Return

LD0212105293 Tehran IRNA in English 1029 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 2, 1993—All thirty one passengers and crew members of the hijacked Fokker Friendship F-27 arrived safely in Iran this morning. The passengers of the plane, hijacked on Monday [29 November] en route from Gachsaran to Ahvaz in southern Iran, received a warm welcome at Khosrawi border when they arrived at 11:00 hours. Thousands of people and several ranking local officials were present to greet the 3-day captives with flower wreaths. The hijacker, 'Ali Reza Karami Khayrabadi, was a member of Iraqi-based terrorist MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq] organization. According to the pilot of the plane, Parviz Bustani, the hijacker pulled a gun shortly after the plane took off from the oil-rich town of Gachsaran and demanded that the plane go to Israel. The plane then approached Kuwait's airspace from which it was turned away. Fokker F-27 finally landed in al-Basrah safely. Al-Basrah, in southern Iraq, is part of the "no-fly zone".

MKO Activities Detailed

LD0112153993 Tehran IRNA in English 1511 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA—The terrorist Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) has admitted committing 58 acts of terrorism inside Iran from March 22 to June 21, 1993.

In its weekly publication, 'RESISTANCE COUNCIL', the MKO has admitted attacking six houses and bombing several mosques in Esfahan and the northern town of Qaem Shahr during the said period. The targets attacked or bombed by the terrorist group have been described as "bases of the Tehran regime."

The weekly said that some 260 people who it claimed to have been personnel of the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) were killed in the attacks.

Only eight civilians living in western Iranian villages bordering Iraq have been killed in the MKO onslaughts.

The weekly also claimed that the MKO terrorists had also planted bombs along an oil pipeline and at the sites of Friday congregational prayers, attacked polling booths during the presidential and parliamentary elections and set ablaze motor cars.

Following the secret escape to Paris of Maryam Qajar Azodanlou, the third wife of MKO ringleader Masoud Rajavi three weeks ago, the MKO members launched a series of attacks on French interests in Tehran in a bid to tarnish Iran-France relations and dissuade the Paris government from deporting Maryam Rajavi.

France's permission to Maryam Qajar Azodanlou to stay in Paris unleashed a series of protests against the French Government with Tehran lodging a formal protest with Paris.

In early October, the wife of the MKO ringleader accompanied by some other MKO members secretly fled to Paris from Iraq and the French Government granted them asylum despite the fact that the group had already been deported from France for involvement in terrorist activities.

However, the French foreign minister has vowed that France will not become a base for terrorists.

Daily Calls Clinton-Rushdie Meeting 'Seditious Act'

LD0212111993 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 2, IRNA—President Bill Clinton's much publicized huddle with the highly controversial author of *The Satanic Verses* is yet another gaffe for his foreign policy establishment, wrote the English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' Thursday [2 December].

According to the daily's editorial, "impartial observers, both Muslim and non-Muslim, cannot comprehend the logic behind the open disregard by the Clinton White House for the followers of a major religion."

No doubt, said the daily, "this seditious act by an American president has not gone unmarked even by his allies and sympathizers in the Muslim world. Its symbolism will go further in deepening the dangerous divide between Muslims and the U.S.-led western alliance."

The daily said, "for nearly five years Rushdie has become a synonym for a good-for-nothing and all that stands for evil. Now, with little doubt over Salman's negative conduct, it remains to be seen how Clinton's delinquent disposition can be defended by himself or his senior advisers."

Sympathy and support for Salman Rushdie in Washington and London has been confused with the "U.S.-sponsored program to 'isolate' Islamic Iran. The anti-Iran western leaders will not discount what actually directs Islamic public opinion regarding the Salman Rushdie affair. The ummah across the board believes that the author was condemned because his book is offensive."

It concluded by saying, "for this he will be punished. And Clinton was nowhere near supporting human rights or free speech when he warmly received such an obnoxious man in the office of the president of the United States."

Tehran Reports U.S. Efforts To 'Isolate' Iran

NC0212102493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] The U.S. Secretary of State said in Brussels yesterday that the European countries should coordinate efforts with the United States in order to isolate the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, according to AFP, once again the United States could not elicit the concurrence of European countries.

The U.S. Secretary of State has begun a European tour this week. During this tour, Christopher is ostensibly seeking to gain a favorable response from European countries on the U.S. stance to isolate Iran.

In his meeting yesterday with European Union officials, Christopher stated: Washington believes that Tehran should be isolated. Following his meeting with Warren Christopher, the head of the European Union Willy Claes spoke to correspondents and said that efforts to coordinate U.S. and European positions have been made. However, some political differences remain.

Immediately, Warren Christopher commented to correspondents that the Claes remarks are encouraging. He said that probably Claes was alluding to differences of opinion and not to political differences.

The head of the U.S. CIA also said: The approach of some European countries with regard to Washington's efforts to isolate Tehran is more tepid than that of others. James Woolsey stated yesterday: Germany is one of those European countries that believes that it should continue to maintain normal commercial relations with Iran, but the United States believes that Iran must be isolated. The CIA chief went on to say that U.S. security circles are consistently watching Iran's activities.

Another U.S. official announced yesterday that the main axis of U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf is to combat Iran's regional policy. Edward Djerejian, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State said: Washington is concerned about Tehran's policy of opposition to the 'Arafat-Israel accord and its support to the Islamic Lebanese and Palestinian movements.

* Deputies Discuss Relations With U.S.

94LA0028A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] News Service—With the coming of 13 Aban [4 November] (the national day of fighting global oppression), Engineer Seyyed Morteza Nabavi and Dr. Sa'id Raja'i-Khorasani, two Majles deputies from Tehran, expressed their views about the issue of "relations with the United States and fighting global oppression" yesterday in a gathering of students of Tehran University and responded to their questions.

In this meeting, which was held in Sheykh Morteza Ansari Hall of the College of Law and Political Science

through the efforts of the Islamic Society of Students of Tehran University, first Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani said in regards to the term oppression: The concept of oppression is an authentic major Koranic one that indicates self-centeredness, self-aggrandizement, and not seeking God. In the Koran, Satan is mentioned as the first oppressor.

He added: The reason for using the term oppressor with reference to the United States is precisely due to its Satanic characteristics. Imam Khomeyni noted this issue and presented the United States as the Great Satan and the greatest oppressor. He said: It was because of the oppressive role of the United States that on 13 Aban 1358 [4 November 1979], the spy nest was seized in Tehran. Because of that day and several other incidents (the day the Imam was exiled to Turkey, Students' Day), 13 Aban was called "the National Day of Fighting Global Oppressors," which we consider God's Day.

In this meeting, Engineer Nabavi, honoring the events of 13 Aban, then said: We had three events on this day. The first event on 13 Aban concerns the exile of the Imam in 1343 [1964] to Turkey. The shah was given the assignment by the United States to fight religion in Iran. Of course, they had made it clear to the shah that fighting the clerics was a dangerous task, but he thought that with U.S. support he could fight religion. In the second event on 13 Aban, for which it was called Students' Day, our students were martyred in 1357 [1978] with American bullets. And the third event was the seizure of the spy nest, which the Imam called the "second revolution."

He added: The seizure of the U.S. spy nest on 13 Aban 1358 [4 November 1979] struck a deadly blow to U.S. prestige in the world and showed the hollowness of this oppressive power. This day is a central day in the struggle of the Iranian nation to gain independence and freedom and establish an Islamic government.

He said: In ideological, cultural, scientific, intellectual, experimental, and political dimensions, and for various reasons, we are responsible to fight global oppressors, headed by the Great Satan, the United States.

Engineer Nabavi pointed out: Neither in terms of values are we allowed to compromise with the United States and have talks nor is it in our interest, because God does not accept the domination of infidels over the faithful.

Even if the faithful are a small group, they have the duty to fight the domination of the infidels and tolerate hardship on this path.

He added: In terms of experience, the United States has proved that it does not accept the independence of any country. Especially in the wake of the disintegration of Eastern imperialism, it considers its power uncontested in the world and interferes and invades everywhere, even violating the principles that it has declared and accepted. The United States supports the artillery fire on the Russian Parliament, the Zionists, and also those who massacre Muslims in Europe.

He said: The United States does not consent to anything less than another country accepting its domination and having a government that it wants. Indeed it will not expect anything less of the Islamic Republic.

For these reasons, fighting the United States is obligatory for us, both logically and religiously.

Also, in this meeting Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani, responding to a question concerning his letter to the grand leader concerning negotiations with the United States, said: Like any Iranian, I have the right to write any letter I wish to the grand leader, and no one has the right to interfere in direct contact with the imam of the people. It is the grand leader who will make a decision and provide guidance about the content of the letter and the people's views expressed to him.

He added: I determined that writing this letter was in the interest of the country, and in writing my expert analysis I felt that I was serving it. This was not my first letter nor will it be the last. In response to some of the letters I write to his honor he explicitly issues instructions to be implemented, for some he provides guidance, and some are filed away.

I wrote a letter to a person who is in a position to know the secrets of the regime and certainly has expert awareness of all aspects of a political issue. During the time of the infallible ones, the leadership of the country relied on infallibility, and the infallible ones never made a transgression in their decisions. But in regards to those who are not infallible, the best guarantee for strong decisions is to be given more expert information.

Hence, experts cannot follow the current slogans and agree in self-censorship. I have a religious duty to inform the grand leader of an issue that I think he must be aware of.

Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani pointed out: I was the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations for six years. My position and speeches are clear, and at the time, as well, I made suggestions, and my suggestions were examined.

He added: I wrote this letter after six months of study and carefully considered the date of its writing. Thinking of the possibility that an unwise person might be offended by it, I dated it 08/09/1371 [29 November 1992] and gave it personally to the grand leader. Now, how was it that this letter was published after a year? Some have said that I published the letter, and I must say that I did not by any means do so. I wrote this letter confidentially and did not want strangers to know its content.

The individuals who published it either did not pay attention or were opportunistic in wanting to create a political problem.

In this meeting also Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani was asked: As one of those who has posed the issue of establishing

relations and talks with the United States, please state what is the greatest factor in our country which made this issue not materialize?

He answered: I must not be addressed as one who has posed the issue of negotiations, because another person posed the issue in an article. I do not want to talk about the letter anymore, but there are several reasons why this idea did not materialize. First, without a religious permit and the permission of the grand leader, we cannot take steps in regards to negotiations and relations. But, concerning an expert writing a letter to the leader, certainly it is not subject to this issue.

He added: A large number of people, and even Mr. Nabavi, may think that creating diplomatic relations and talks with the United States means retreating from an anti-oppressor position. I differ with this opinion and believe that what we interpret the oppressor to be is correct. A supreme example of it is the United States, but it is not only the United States.

During the Iran-Iraq war, one of the most important agreements between the United States and the former Soviet Union concerned the Iran-Iraq war, about which they officially expressed their total agreement in the United Nations.

Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani pointed out: Individuals known as supporters of the clerics and among those related to the clerics have thanked me in the Majles for writing the letter. In other words, the idea does not belong to one particular political faction, and I did not write it on behalf of any group or faction but expressed my personal opinion.

He said: At one time, we did not agree to peace with Saddam and accepting the resolution. But when the Imam accepted it, everyone accepted it, because we had religious justification and the leader of the revolution at a historical juncture had made a correct decision that everyone accepted. In regards to relations with the United States, too, if the grand leader agrees, we too will accept it, and if he does not, this decision will be respected by us.

He added: Giving an opinion about an issue does not require creating a climate. In my opinion, the United States is a country like other countries. The United States is not a fixed thing, it can be divided. We must deal with its policies as needed. This kind of dealing requires religious justification. In my opinion, the grand leader is the head of our regime who must know the viewpoints. I wrote the letter out of a sense of duty and consider what I wrote valid from a scholarly and practical perspective and defend it. But it is not religiously justified and it becomes religiously justified when the grand leader agrees to it.

In this meeting, Engineer Nabavi, the manager of RESALAT newspaper, was asked: Why do you not report on the letter concerning the establishment of relations with the United States in your newspaper? Does this not mean that you agree with the writer of the letter?

He answered: We discussed this issue in the newspaper. We published an item from the bulletin of the Society of Combative Clerics, which clarifies the position of the combative clerics in connection with this letter that states: If a person is the candidate of the Society of [Combative] Clerics, it does not mean that all his actions to the Day of Judgment are supported by the Society in the same way that if the Imam endorsed someone at one juncture, it did not mean endorsing him to the Day of Judgment.

He added: The Combative Clerics in various communiques prior to the publication of this letter has expressed its positions vis-a-vis the United States. Another issue is that this letter, as Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani claims, was confidential and, as far as we know, was not distributed in the Majles. Hence, when a letter is confidential, why should the Society of Combative Clerics express opinions about it?

Engineer Nabavi pointed out: Those who escalated this problem, if they intended to serve, should not have done so, especially relating the position of Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani to a faction, because this is in fact giving the green light to the United States, meaning that inside the country there is a current to establish relations with the United States, whereas this is not true at all, and this letter was something that Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani, as he said himself, was worked on as an expertise matter and considers it right to give it confidentially to the grand leader. Because this letter was given to several places, it is possible that it was published through other channels.

He added: The newspaper wrote its position and Mr. 'Asgar-Owladi wrote several editorials about the matter and it is clear that in this regard we do not agree with the writer of this letter and the Combative Clerics specifically does not agree with the writer of the letter.

He emphasized: We oppose it for religious, scholarly, intellectual, and practical reasons.

Referring to the explanation of Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani concerning his letter, Mr. Nabavi said: What the grand leader of the revolution prescribes has the justification to be implemented, whereas the grand leader did not make such a response. Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani, who said that he does not want to talk about the content of his letter, in my opinion, should not have made the ensuing statements, because if one is not going to say what the content of the letter is, he should not claim that the letter is scientifically and practically credible unless the issue is discussed as to what amount of this claim is true. I, too, claim that his suggestion and proposal concerning negotiations with the United States is neither scientific nor practical.

He added: Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani said that he thought some unwise person might be offended, whereas those

who were offended by his letter are not unwise. This is an insult, which I do not think he meant and hope he will correct. Or he said that establishing relations with the United States does not mean retreat. We should not have any doubt that under the unequal existing circumstances, while the United States has all the propaganda resources, accepting talks with the United States means loss of revolutionary and anti-oppressor dignity.

The manager of RESALAT newspaper pointed out: If we speak about talks with the United States and relations with the United States, certainly it will mean retreat from our positions, because this is how the revolutionaries and Muslims of the world interpret it. Although Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani compared the United States with countries such as England and the former Soviet Union, in my opinion, this is not comparable at all, because the Imam called the United States the manifestation of global oppression. Now, if what the Imam said was not very clear at the time, today it has become very clear, because with the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the United States claims leadership of the world.

He pointed out: When Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani said that both the factions of the Assembly of Clerics and the Combative Clerics thanked him, it creates some sort of doubt, as if there are people in the country that support the thesis of Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani. This is not true at all and I deny it. At least, as we see it in the Majles, the speaker and the deputies of the Majles oppose his thesis and the position of the grand leader of the revolution and the Society of Combative Clerics is also clear.

Mr. Nabavi pointed out: Another issue that Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani stated concerning the United States not being something fixed and being able to be divided and its policies able to be dealt with as need be, this, too, is a baseless claim and it cannot be divided. Both the Republicans and the Democrats who come to power in the United States do not set any limits on their hostility toward us.

Mr. Nabavi was asked: It seems that the Fourth Majles does not possess a revolutionary spirit in keeping with the Imam's line and has not been dynamic in the issues of the Islamic world, or at least they could not revitalize the conference to support the Islamic revolution of the people of Palestine.

He answered: The positions of the speaker of the Majles and the letters of the deputies against the United States and condemning the compromise of 'Arafat and in support of Palestine are clear. In regards to world issues, the Majles has taken timely positions and in regard to the conference on support for the Islamic revolution of Palestine, preparations are being made and there is nothing to be worried about in this regard.

He added: Our people and students must not worry about establishing relations with the United States unless the United States gives up its oppressive nature, which in my opinion is unlikely. Today, the grand leader, even more than at the time of the Imam, notes this issue carefully and condemns both negotiations and relations.

Continuing this meeting, Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani emphasized planning to fight global oppressors and said: You can be an enemy of a regime and devise a correct long-term program and implement it step by step, because you do not announce your plans. The steps that you take may not be successful. I am not very worried about the slogans. I am worried that, God forbid, to implement these slogans and to fight oppressors we would not have a plan.

He added: One of the students had commented and written that my idea is the idea of the right-wing faction. In his question, he wants to think in factional terms and relate my ideas to the right-wing faction. But he does not want to say that I have more supporters in the left. It is not necessary for me to speak about the complaints of the members of the foreign policy committee of the Third Majles concerning the United States, England, and France.

He said: Some might believe that interests lie in relations with the West or some might think the opposite. In my opinion, all of them intend to serve and are faithful people and both love the revolution and country equally.

Commentary Criticizes Sanctions Against Libya

LD0112125793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1059 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The second series of the UN Security Council sanctions against Libya take effect from today. This is at a time when there are no clearer prospects to show that the West can solve the current crisis with Libya the way it desires. The new sanctions are introduced in accordance with Security Council resolution 883. [passage omitted]

The Libyan Government has shown some flexibility in the past and continues to be flexible. But each time the West responds by hardening its stand. This fact reveals the true objective of this dispute and demonstrates that the crisis is not about legal matters and philanthropic values; rather, the essence of the West's approach and their guidelines pursue political objectives.

In fact, the crisis between the West and Libya is the second continuing crisis in the region, after the UN-Iraqi crisis, which the West is exploiting in order to put pressure on radical Arabs and to tame those who seek compromise. The West has no intention of solving these crises in the near future either; otherwise flexibility from one side should bring flexibility from the other and not the intensification of a hostile approach.

Libya, while showing rational flexibility, has resisted pressure to hand over the two accused to the West

unconditionally. The issue shows that there are no clear prospects for solving this crisis.

Relations With Sudanese Fundamentalists 'Deteriorating'

PM0112120693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Nov 93 p4

[Report by Amir Tahiri: "Tension Between Fundamentalists of Iran and Sudan"]

[Text] London—Relations between Iranian and Sudanese fundamentalists appear to be deteriorating because of a number of ideological and practical differences, according to Tehran sources yesterday.

These differences might lead to only limited Iranian participation in this week's conference of fundamentalist movements in Khartoum organized by the Sudanese fundamentalists. Iran is paying part of the expenses incurred in organizing the conference which had been suggested by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Arab and Islamic People's Congress.

The first sign of Iran's displeasure with its allies in Sudan appeared earlier this month when the authorities turned down a request by al-Turabi to visit Tehran in the course of a regional tour which included Kabul and Islamabad.

The Iranian press had previously criticized al-Turabi for the positions he took on a number of issues, such as his implicit recognition of Israel in a statement he made to the French paper LE MONDE.

The Iranian press was also critical of his ambiguous stance on the late Khomeyni's edict regarding British writer Salman Rushdie. In his meetings with Iranian officials, al-Turabi fully supported the edict but in his press interviews and his meetings with Western officials, he dissociated himself from Khomeyni's ruling.

The mullahs of Tehran blame the Sudanese fundamentalists for not pledging allegiance to the "supreme guide" 'Ali Khamene'i as leader of "the world Islamic revolutionary movement."

On the opposite side, in Sudanese fundamentalist circles, there is dissatisfaction at Iran's failure to translate its words into deeds. When President Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited Khartoum he promised its military government substantial financial and military aid, but Sudanese officials are now saying privately that very little of the Iranian promises has been fulfilled. The Sudanese are particularly resentful of Tehran's refusal to supply them with oil products "as a brotherly gift" or at reduced prices. Iranian oil reaching Sudan only meets a very small portion of its needs.

Iran is also careful what arms it sends to Sudan. That caution is in line with the policy of the mullahs since 1979. They give unlimited aid only to the groups fully committed to Iranian directives and to Khomeyni's ideology.

Tehran has been trying for two years to find such groups in Sudan to allocate aid to them. These Iranian attempts are upsetting the major fundamentalist groups, including the one led by Dr. al-Turabi.

The Iranian Embassy in Khartoum is organizing "exploratory visits" to Iran with the aim of recruiting enough Sudanese activists to set up a Hizballah branch in Sudan.

Implementation of an ambitious plan to rebuild and expand the Sudanese Navy has not started yet. For unknown reasons, a scheduled official visit to Khartoum by Iranian Navy Commander 'Ali Shamkhani has been repeatedy postponed.

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard has sent a number of military training and planning experts to Khartoum to, among other things, identify likely allies in the ranks of the Sudanese Armed Forces, but Revolutionary Guard Commander General Mohsen Reza'i has denied that his forces control six bases in Sudan.

In its strategic studies, the Iranian Foreign Ministry describes Sudan as a "vital staging post" for Iranian influence in the Red Sea and south of the African Sahara but Iranian experts say that Iran's financial problems have prevented the expansion and strengthening of its positions in Sudan.

Danish Minister Meets Velayati, Finance Minister

LD0112181093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Mr. Ole Pensman Poulsen, the deputy foreign minister of Denmark currently visiting Tehran, met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati this afternoon.

In this meeting, bilateral relations, regional and international developments, and issues concerning the newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union were discussed.

Mr. Velayati considered the presence of peace and tranquillity in the region a factor that can pave the way for constructive cooperations between all countries. He further stated tension in the Middle East was detrimental to the security of the region and the whole world.

Poulsen, in turn, referred to the effective role played by Iran in safeguarding peace and stability in the region and expressed his admiration for our country's policies in this realm.

Also today, the Danish minister met Mr. Morteza Mohammadkhan, our country's minister of finance and economic affairs, and discussed the prospect for economic and commercial cooperations between the two countries.

Japanese Envoy Discusses Railway Cooperation

LD0112234193 Tehran IRNA in English 1919 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA—Managing director of the Iranian railways Sadegh Afshar exchanged views on a contract between the Iranian railways and a Japanese institute with Japanese Ambassador to Tehran Ohara Takeshi [name and title as received] here today.

According to the three-year contract, senior Japanese railway experts would organize training courses on railway signs, and equip the Yazd railway workshop in the central part of Iran.

Ohara in the meeting, elaborated on Japan's experience in the field of express trains, and said his country was ready to cooperate with Iran in this area.

Afshar also stressed the need for the expansion of cooperation between the railways of the two countries.

Senior Banking Officials Accused of Fraud

NC0112130193 Paris AFP in English 1353 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov 30 (AFP)—Several senior managers of Iran's Tejarat foreign trade bank have been arrested for alleged embezzlement of millions of dollars, the TEHRAN TIMES daily reported Tuesday [30 November].

The newspaper said they had been officially accused of "embezzling funds and abusing power," in a case involving "billions of rials." One dollar is currently worth about 1,800 rials.

The English-language paper did not name those involved in the alleged fraud, but local bankers said the managing director and at least two of his close aides may have been involved.

The sources said the accused had set up fictitious companies in order to benefit from credits and allocations of foreign currency, which were then diverted through unspecified channels.

The Tejarat bank, which specialises in financing foreign trade operations, is one of the three main establishments in Iran's wholly nationalised banking system.

According to Iranian and Western banking sources, several central bank officials were questioned by the authorities in connection with the Tejarat bank affair.

Credits to Iranian enterprises have been cut back drastically amid a cash crisis caused by a drop in oil revenues and an estimated short and medium-term foreign debt of 30 billion dollars.

Since the start of the year, the central bank has imposed restrictions tightly limiting foreign currency credits and all import credits provided by local banks, with the aim of reducing government spending.

President's Economic Dispute With Khamene'i Noted

PM0112095693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "In Reply to Khamene'i's Criticism of His Economic Program, Hashemi-Rafsanjani Stakes His Future on Reform"]

[Excerpts] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has threatened to resign if 'Ali Khamene'i, "the supreme guide," cancels a program for economic reform drawn up with the help of the World Bank in Washington.

Commenting on the Iranian president's threats, a source close to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's wing said: "This is not political maneuvering. If the reforms are canceled, then the economy will get out of control and Hashemi-Rafsanjani's presidency could end in catastrophe."

The program includes discontinuation of government subsidies for a number of commodities, privatization of over 300 government-owned establishments, and a radical review of the employment law to abolish the minimum legal wage and ban strikes. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the labor committees, which play the part of trade unions in most public sector establishments, are also putting pressure on President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. A number of trade union leaders known for their close links with Khamene'i have threatened to stage a series of strikes to prevent implementation of the reforms. Workers of the gas refinery in Bid Boland have appealed to Khamene'i to dissolve Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government and "appoint men who would serve the poor not the rich." Nobody knows when this indirect duel between Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani will end. [passage omitted]

Official on Regulations for Free Trade Zones

LD0112122793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Interview with Morteza Alviri, presidential adviser and secretary of the High Council of Free Trade and Industrial Zones, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent]—As a result of the changes that have been introduced in regulations pertaining to the Free Trade and Industrial Zones, henceforth the three regions of Qeshm, Kish, and Chah-Bahar will be mainly used as centers for tourist attraction and export promotion. I am asking Mr. Aliviri, presidential adviser and secretary of these free trade zones to expand on that theme.

[Alviri] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I believe that flow of goods—manufactured goods—from these free trade zones to the hinterland of

the country was a perverted move that was not in tune with the objectives of the free trade zones.

Naturally that move could not go on, because it was detrimental to the economy of the country. Therefore, we welcome the new changes. To raise resources in free trade zones we have decided mainly to invest in the tourist industry. Obviously, with the flow of foreign tourists and those from Central Asia, we will earn the intended income.

In other areas of the free zones, including Kish, we will sell plots of land and invite the private sector to the zones. Which will enable us to attend to infrastructural activities. Thus we will develop these zones to engage in exports. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] While these changes are positive, it seems constant changes in regulations may bring about difficulties in Free Trade and Industrial Zones.

[Alviri] Fortunately, that problem was solved two months ago; that is, with the enactment of acts of parliament these zones are regulated by [specific] rules. Meanwhile, we have prepared some 10 sets of rules and regulations governing such topics as tolls, transfer of land, private sector investment in free zones, insurance, visa, employment and the like. These are being ratified by the High Council of Free Trade and Industrial Zones. So, I can assure you that the free zones enjoy legislative stability [as heard]. You will not see lack of stability any more. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What basic moves will be adopted to develop exports from the Free Trade and Industrial Zones?

[Alviri] Very good incentives have been given. These include exemption from customs duties, facilities for foreign investment, and abolition of limitations on the share of foreign investment in any venture, liberal monetary and foreign exchange regulations, and licensing of foreign banks to be active in these zones so that banking and foreign exchanges deals can be conducted easily. We have also provided facilities with regard to employment, insurance and the like. Capital movement is fully free. Investments are exempt from taxation for 15 years. So, special incentives have been provided for these investments. Naturally, all these will aim at export promotion.

Deputy Energy Minister Explains New Electricity Charges

LD0112152293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Excerpts] At a news conference today, the deputy energy minster and head of TAVANIR [electric] company said about the new electricity charges: The decision to adopt new electricity tariffs and their increase, effective from Mehr [September] this year was due to the increase in costs. The increase applies to one percent of domestic and four percent of commercial users in the country.

He said: Every year 60 billion kWh of electricity is generated and consumed in the country. He added: By the end of the second development plan, the country's power stations will generate a total of 28,000 mW. Also, there will be 2,500 new TAVANIR customers.

The share of the industrial sector will rise from 25 to 28 percent, and that of the agricultural sector will reach seven percent.

Saying that the share of domestic, general, and other usage will reach 68 percent he said: The share of the manufacturing sector should be more than that of domestic and general use. [passage omitted]

Referring to the investments made in energy installations, he said: The present-day value of the investments is 30 trillion rials. By the end of the second five-year plan, 26 trillion rials more will be invested.

Commando Training Exercises Begins

LD0112151493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1230 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] The commandos of the Army ground forces began their great maneuver Thunderbolt-2 [sa'eqeh-2], code-named The Prophet's Daughter [o' fatimah al-zahra], in the Aliabad region, near Qom. The maneuver will continue for five days with 5,000 rangers from the 23d commando division of the Army participating in it.

Yesterday, the participating forces performed reconnaissance operations with day and night attacks. While capturing hypothetical targets during these attacks, the forces carried out mopping up operations and consolidated their positions.

Pakistan

U.S., Bhutto Stances on Pressler Viewed

BK0112092993 Islamabad THE NATION in English 1 Dec 93 p 6

[Editorial: "U.S. Perception of N-Policy"]

[Text] The question as to whether there is any meeting point in the US administration's position on the Pressler Amendment and that of Prime Ministger Benazir Bhutto's, can be answered in different ways. The US position as of today is that the Pressler Amendment is not going to be removed, only its debilitating effect on the US President's inherent executive powers, may be neutralised through another law. Ms Bhutto, on the other hand, has been saying that her government would keep pressing the US to dismantle the Amendment because being country-specific, it is a bad law. The law, in fact, is not only bad, it is also the only law of its kind in the US legislative history which seeks to penalise a friendly country (also its ally for a long time) and

exempt from its application those who have been in the opposite camp and worked against US interests. There being a major moral anomaly involved in the application of this law, Ms Bhutto's plea makes sense. Therefore, on the face of it, there is no meeting point between the US position and that of Pakistan. Yet for all its apparent distance, the question may in its actual thrust may either be of semantics or of political tact. The US Congress, having been fed for a long time by the joint Israel-Indian lobby on the evils of nuclear technology in the hands of an Islamic country, may not be willing to countenance any move which would in effect amount to condoning Pakistan's 'misstep'. Paradoxical as it may seem, the pro-Pressler lobby in the US congress believes that while Pakistan's alliance is of value to US strategic interests in that region, as was proved during the war in Afghanistan, it is less reliable than India where nuclear technology is concerned. To disabuse that lobby of this notion and persuade it to treat Pakistan and India at par, may take some time and effort. It could be that the US administration is unwilling to make that effort. It may have thus chosen the less prickly option of seeking for the President the same discretionary powers of waiver in the case of the Pressler Amendment, which he has in the case of most other US laws.

On principle, the PM's stance of 'no rollback' on the one hand and of protest against a bad US law on the other, is morally right. Whether that would place the US administration in a difficult position vis-a-vis its Congress, is however, another matter. Yet it is obvious that both positions have been forced on the two governments by internal considerations. With the Opposition in Pakistan shouting betrayal, Benazir is obliged to talk openly on a subject which had best been kept confidential and the US administration may have found it necessary to keep the hardliners in the Congress mollified for a similar reason. Looked at from this angle the demand in Pakistan for an open debate on our nuclear policy, may not be in the best interest of the country. An in-camera debate would be far better, if at all it is unavoidable.

General Beg Comments on Nuclear Policy

BK0212102393 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 2 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan's nuclear programme has neither been capped nor freezed, rather the country has adopted a policy of "restraint" on the issue, says General (Retd) Mirza Aslam Beg, former Chief of the Army Staff.

In an exclusive interview to Pakistan Observer, and weekly Hurmat, General Beg, who had been associated with policy formulation on the subject, revealed that the country had attained the required capability during the last tenure of the PPP government and the decision to adopt policy of restraint was made unanimously by all concerned. According to him, the decision was taken collectively by the then President, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan; the Prime Minister (then) Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and the (then) COAS (Mirza Aslam Beg).

Clarifying the position whether the programme has been capped or freezed, the former COAS explained different stages of nuclear weapon programme. He said in the first stage Uranium is enriched at low or high level. Low Enriched Uranium (between 3 to 6 percent) is used in atomic power plants whereas High Enriched Uranium (90 to 95 percent) is meant for weapons-oriented programme. In the second stage enriched Uranium is given device shape and different components of the device are manufactured. The third stage involves laboratory system whereas the whole system is tested in the fourth stage either through cold test or hot test as done by India in 1974. Dropping of the nuclear warhead is the fifth and final stage of the programme. With this background, he said stoppage of all the stages simultaneously would be called capping and stoppage of work on one or two stages would be called "freezing". But there is a third term "restraint' meaning not to proceed beyond attainment of the required capability.

General Beg said the capability was achieved during BB's previous rule and she had all the powers to take a decision about the fate of the nuclear programme. He said the decision to adopt policy of restraint was taken by GIK, BB and he (Mirza) himself and Nawaz Sharif inherited this decision. He strongly dispelled the impression that the decision was taken because of any outside pressure and said it was a voluntary decision. After this, the scientists were asked to work on other projects like missile manufacturing. "Had our programme been rolled back, all the scientists and technicians working on it would have been rendered superfluous and sent to their home which is not the case", he explained.

Replying to a question, General Beg said BB was a party to the decision to pursue the policy of "restraint" and Nawaz Sharif too continued this policy during his rule. Therefore, he said, they ought not blame each other.

To another question, he said the United States wants us to roll back and destroy the nuclear programme but "no Pakistani Government could do that". He said the present government should take the nation into confidence about the nature of the programme and its present stage as people would never allow any compromise on this vital issue.

The former COAS was of the view that there was a time when Pakistan could have detonated its nuclear device but any such action now would create many problems for the country.

General Beg was also critical of the decision of Pakistan Government to withdraw Kashmir resolution from a UN Committee and said India has agreed to talk to Pakistan only to buy some time. He said the present session of the UN General Assembly is ending on December 15 and India expressed its readiness to discuss the Kashmir issue with Pakistan only to deprive Pakistan of the opportunity to raise the issue at the world body. Now Pakistan would have to wait till next session. He was of the view that the forthcoming round of

Pak-India talks would be fruitless. The very basis of the dialogue i.e. Simla agreement is not relevant because the discussions should focus on how to implement the UN resolutions.

About (American) General Hoar's visit to Siachin, he said the United States wanted to convey a signal to India that it would be in trouble if it (India) tried to improve its relations with China. Similarly, when India was going to sign an oil pipeline project agreement with Iran, the United States openly supported. Pakistan on Kashmir but when India described the project as "not feasible", Americans showed a gesture of goodwill by advising Pakistan not to take up Kashmir issue to UN.

Editorial: U.S. 'Groping' on Nuclear Policy

BK2811102093 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Nov 93 p 4

[Editorial: "The Nuclear Question"]

[Text] It would seem, from recent utterances over in Washington and elsewhere, that the United Staets has finally realised that the Pressler Amendment was working against its own aims of nuclear non-proliferation. We're very happy for the Americans, that at least somewhere in the world thay are actively formulating and adjusting concrete foreign policy. It's quite another matter that they are still groping in the dark.

What the Americans have never realised, and sadly perhaps never will because of the peculiar nature of their system and society, is that matters of security in the Third World are much more intricate than anything that their geographically isolated New World has had to deal with. The Americans want to lead, but without responsibility. They want to police, but without justice. They want peace and stability, but without equality. In some ways the Monroe Doctrine has always been part of the American psyche, which even when wanting to asssert its global dominance is unwilling to wander too far from the comforts of home. Many Americans now re-write history and attribute losing the Vietnam War to having had to fight with one arm tied behind their backs. It's true. It's very hard to commit murder with one arm tied behind the back. The contradictions of the American system just do not reconcile to the complexities of the world outside.

So it is with the nuclear question. Bill Clinton has made it his top priority to enforce non-proliferation, and while now with Pakistan the Americans are taking a more conciliatory approach, it is only because America sees its goals being undermined, and not out of sympathy with the Pakistani position on the matter. The variation on that theme is evident in the case of North Korea, which was recently threatened with extinction by the American President. All this while, Israel, South Africa and India went ahead with their own nuclear programmes without so much as a grunt from across the Atlantic. This is not security, this is hegemony. For Third World states featful for their existence, there is no cause to believe that they can safely limit their option without compromising on their security. This is because they do not believe, like the U.S. does, that they themselves are "irresponsible" or inherently "unstable." As much as the American percepion of the threat from nuclear proliferation is racist and misguided, it also fails to explain just what the threat is that needs to be contained, or what the alternatives are. What doesn't help the American cause is the fact that the world sees the other alternatives only too clearly. Bosnia was only the latest. The use of "was" here is necesary, to stress the point that for all intents and purposes that nation is dead. We see that, and we shudder.

What is all the more laughable is the report that France has offered a security umbrella to Pakistan should it foresake its nuclear option. For one, we have bitter memories of the last few times we thought we had superpower cover against aggression from our neighbour. But this offer is even more pitiably ridiculous if one sees what happened in France's own backyard. When they failed to respond to the wails of Bosnian women and the screams of their children, so within earshot as they were, what should we expect? France wishes to give us a blank cheque worth some sort of security, which is perhaps encashable in the Bank of the New Work Order. Unfortnately we don't bank there. Even otherwise, we know that it is far more corrupt and insolvent than BCCI could have been.

No, we are not irresponsible. If anything, we only too clearly understand our responsibility to ourselves and to the rest of the world, much more than the U.S. does. We understand our problems, and we will deal with them peacefully as far as we can and for as long as we can, hopefully forever. The Pressler Amendment is America's concern more than it is ours, and whether it stays or goes is indicatively only of the twists and turns in the American mind, not in the reality of our position.

Clinton Meeting With Rushdie Assailed

BK0112102193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Dec 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Clinton's Fundamentalism"]

[Text] The United States has given yet one more rude shock to the Muslims around the world and this time the attack is where it hurts most. Unbelievably, President Clinton, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the President's National Security Advisor Anthony Lake, invited the Muslims' bete noire Salman Rushdie to a meeting to demonstrate their solidarity with the walking abomination. If the White House's army of advisors persuaded their President that this gesture would make him more likeable to the American public, they would have hidden from him the sordid details of the extraordinary security precautions taken to protect Rushdie. The bomb squad at the White House had their dog sniff even a visiting Congressman's car for hidden explosives.

The episode is surprising, for Clinton rode to electoral victory not long ago on a wave of liberalism. None has

defined American liberalism either as atheism or enmity towards any religious sentiment. So far, it has been taken for an antithesis of that brand of American conservatism that sees the whole world through its western, Anglo-Saxon, Puritanical coloured glasses. But even Bush's conservatives had defeated all efforts for Rushdie's reception at the White House. Although Clinton's liberals share Bush's and Reagan's conservative hatred of Iran, it seems Clinton is ill- informed enough not to know that Ayatollah Khamenei's much publicised edict was a mere reiteration of a basic Islamic injunction which like all Islamic commandments is not national but universal in nature. If he has been advised that the "fatwa" [edict] was a promotional gimmick of the Iranian Shia revolutionaries, he should ask his most celebrated Arab moderate, President Husni Mubarak, to get a counter "fatwa" from the Al-Azhar. No religious denomination of the Muslim 'Ummah' [community] considers the Ayatollah's edict either un-Islamic or founded on excessive and misplaced religious zeal.

It is not that the Prophet of Islam was criticised for the first time by Rushdie. Some of the Orientalists have devoted their entire lives to doing their worst against Islam and the last of the Prophets who was God's mercy to the Universe. Blasphemous men have not spared even God from their nefarious antics. While such attempts have always enraged Muslims, they have been ignored largely, for nothing better could be expected from those clowns. Where Rushdie crossed all limits was that he thought his ancestoral religion would be the strongest sale promotion point for his *Satanic Verses*. Those who could never think that there was any good in Islam, stoked his expectations. His foremost champions became those who fall in that category. But should not the US leaders ask themselves, what kind of a person they are promoting? Rushdie first declared himself a free thinking Muslim. Next, scared out of his wits by the "fatwa", he announced that he was not a Muslim. Now, he once again describes himself a Muslim, for motives that would be as contemptible as his earlier renunciation of his faith.

Rushdie based his revolting book on traditions narrated by fabricators. That fact could not have been unknown either to Rushdie or his teachers at the British University where he had opted for Islamic Studies. If Clinton wants to arrive at the truth, he could read history and note that even the most adverserial contemporaries of the Prophet of Islam could not help conceding that he was the most pious, truthful and kind specimen of humanity they had ever come across. In fact, the Prophet faced all the persecution precisely because he preached enlightenment, dignity of man, forebearance and universal peace to an era of degradation that, given some more time, would have eliminated all humanity from mankind and led it to oblivion.

Clinton's predecessors never tired of reminding Muslims around the globe that Communism was a philosophy of Godlessness, that it promoted immorality and for that reason needed to be stamped out of existence. Most Muslims agreed, though all of them did not share the intensity of American hatred. It is illogical for the United States now to substitute communism with Islamic fundamentalism and plead with the same intensity that it is this evil that needs to be obliterated. The style of propagation of the term 'fundamentalism' publicised by the United States implies that America has no objection to the non-fundamentalist variety of Islam. Nothing can be farther from the truth. At least the warm White House reception to Rushdie implies that. The gesture denotes that it is not merely fundamentalism that Washington opposes but that it honours those who insult Islam and Muslims. If Clinton does not think that Rushdie has insulted Islam, let him persuade his nonfundamentalist cronies from Rabat through Cairo to Amman to receive Rushdie in their palaces. Their response to his request could open his eyes.

The US must understand that Muslims right now are down but not yet out. For most of them Islam remains their most valuable asset, far more precious than life itself. This is not a fundamentalist view, because all Muslims believe that God has granted permanence to man. Death is only a transfer from one kind of life to another. The quality of eternal life following death is determined by his beliefs and actions in this world. That makes Islam indestructible. That is the root cause of the Zionist assertion that there can be no peace with fundamentalist Islam, but as our Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has put it, every Muslim is a fundamentalist. It is well known that Clinton is beholden to the American-Jewish lobby for its support in his election, but the question now is, has he accepted the Zionist world view? Taking Rushdie to bosom seems to indicate that he has at least begun moving in that direction.

Being a champion of human rights, has Clinton heard of the famous sermon of the Prophet whom Rushdie sought to insult? In his last sermon at his final pilgrimage, the Prophet declared: O people, God says "I created you from a male and a female and made you tribes and nations so that you are acquainted with each other. Verily, in the sight of God more honourable is one who is more persistent in warding off evil. No Arab is superior to a non-Arab or vice versa. No white is superior to a black or vice versa. All mankind is descended from Adam who was made of clay. Your blood, your property and your honour are sacred and inviolable until your appear before your God on the Day of judgement."

Freedom of expression is certainly one of the sacred human rights, but as all other freedoms, this right too has to be circumscribed by certain universally acknowledged norms of decency. The limits were defined long ago and the US President may not be averse to referring to the nearest copy of the Bible he can lay his hands on. The ancient book says, "the word of God should not be spoken abusively" (Titus: 2-5). Similar injunctions are there in the Scripture including Peter-2, 2:10, Isaiah 31:4, Jeremiah 38:19, James 1:13 and many more besides.

China To Assist in Building Power Plants

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[Text] Pakistan and China have agreed to cooperate to manufacture power plants on coproduction and cofinancing basis and jointly bid for power plants to meet the country's energy requirements. The agreement came during talks between a high- powered Chinese delegation and the federal minister for industries and production, Brigadier, retired, Mohammad Asghar, in Islamabad today. Chinese vice minister for machinery industry, Mr. (Sun Shangqing), led his country's delegation at the talks.

The Chinese minister said various power generation projects are already under way in Pakistan with Chinese assistance. He said his visit is aimed at reviewing progress on these projects as well as the possibility of further expansion of cooperation in this field.

Chinese Army General Staff Chief Begins Visit

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[Text] General Zhang Wannian, chief of general staff of China's People's Liberation Army, arrived in Karachi this afternoon on a six-day official visit to Pakistan. Among others present at the airport to welcome the Chinese general included General Shamim Alam Khan, chairman of Joint Chief of Staff Committee. During his stay, Gen Zhang will hold talks with the defense minister and high military officials on increasing cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries. He will also visit military installations in the country.